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# THE EUROPEAN TIMES

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50p

## Further falls in RPI predicted

# Lamont hails inflation cut as ERM success

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

INFLATION has fallen below 4 per cent and further sharp reductions are on the horizon.

High street shops have responded to lower pay settlements, abundant supplies of seasonal goods and lower spending induced by the recession. The annual increase in the retail price index fell to 3.9 per cent in June, its lowest for eight months and a sharp decline from May's 4.3 per cent. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, last night attributed the government's success to membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

The underlying inflation rate, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell even more sharply from 5.3 per cent in May to 4.8 per cent. This is the lowest underlying figure since June 1988 and, the Treasury said, below the comparable European Community average for the first time since 1986.

The full price index dipped briefly to 3.7 per cent in October but increased again

as the big reductions in mortgage rates in the autumn of 1990 dropped out of the annual comparisons. Underlying inflation, excluding mortgages, has remained stubbornly above 5 per cent since Nigel Lawson's economic boom in 1988.

Mr Lamont described the better-than-expected inflation figures as excellent and used them as ammunition against his growing number of critics on the Conservative back benches. He reaffirmed his commitment to the ERM in a speech in London to the European Policy Forum, an independent think-tank, billed by Treasury officials as the government's most thorough analysis of its economic strategy since the general election.

"The ERM is helping us to get inflation down and keep it down. That is the only secure route to healthy economic growth and permanently lower unemployment," Mr Lamont said. "Low inflation is vital to Britain's economic prospects. If we want to compete with the best performing economies in the world, we need a rate of inflation at least as low as they have. That is why we joined the ERM."

Turning to critics of the government's policies of linking sterling and interest rates to the German mark, Mr Lamont said that it was an illusion to think that interest rates could be reduced if Britain withdrew from the ERM or devalued sterling.

The government's central objective was to make sure that Britain's inflation performance in the 1990s was even better than in the 1980s. This time growth would not be choked off by a resurgence of inflation, as it was in the late 1980s, he said. ERM membership was designed to provide this long-term guarantee against inflation. It was a policy choice that the government had taken on the basis of what would work best for Britain, not as a "matter of religious faith".

Mr Lamont rejected any suggestions that sterling might be devalued or "re-aligned" against the mark. The ERM had started as a system of "fixed but adjustable" rates but had evolved into a structure where "the emphasis was on 'fixed'". It was the

determination of ERM members to fix their currencies to the mark that accounted for the system's remarkable anti-inflationary achievements and Britain had no intention of choosing the "cut and run" option of adjusting the pound. "If devaluing the currency could solve anything, Britain would already have one of the most successful economies in the world."

The Chancellor's views were backed by Sir Leon Brittan, the deputy president of the European Commission, who said in a speech at Maidstone that Britain would have to raise interest rates if it devalued sterling or withdrew from the ERM. Devaluation would be "an own goal of major dimensions".

Last month's fall in inflation was mainly due to heavy price-cutting in seasonal foods such as potatoes, lamb and fresh fish. DIY prices fell and petrol went down slightly, while the cost of alcohol and tobacco rose only marginally as the residual effects of the Budget excise duties filtered through. On a monthly basis, the retail price index was unchanged between May and June at 139.3, the best monthly performance since an 0.1 percentage point drop in January's index.

Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said that the price being paid for the slow and painful reduction in inflation was more unemployment and business failures. "By refusing to address the long-term needs of the economy, this government is making us suffer now and pay later."

Leading article, page 17  
 Weekending, page 23



Lamont: attacked Tory backbench critics

## Lockerbie families win suit against Pan Am

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FAMILIES of the victims of Pan Am flight 103 won their lawsuit against the now defunct airline in New York last night. A jury at the federal court in Brooklyn found Pan Am guilty of "willful misconduct" because of lax security that allowed a suitcase carrying a bomb on to the New York-bound Boeing 747 that exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 with the loss of 270 lives.

Damages will be fixed at a later trial and will have to be paid by the bankrupt airline's insurers.

The court's decision dealt a fatal blow to Pan Am's con-

temptation that it was not to blame because the bomb was put on the aircraft in Frankfurt as part of a "highly sophisticated act of war" waged by terrorists against the entire United States. British and US investigators said the bomb was hidden in a radio cassette recorder inside an unaccompanied suitcase loaded from a connecting flight from Malta.

Dr Jim Swire, a spokesman for the group, said last night: "It is a great victory for our lawyers and for all the relatives. I think it is also a great victory for sanity over aviation security."



Study in meditation: David Hockney, the painter, a former student of the Royal College of Art, yesterday became an honorary doctor of the college in a ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall in London. He started work in the capital in 1962, and

then moved on to work in Paris and Los Angeles. Mr Hockney led a colourful procession from the Royal College of Art to the Albert Hall, leading other honorary doctors and senior fellows, who included Vivienne Westwood, the designer.

## West to open land corridor for food aid to Sarajevo

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

THE Western European Union will try to establish a land corridor to bring food supplies to beleaguered Sarajevo. The announcement came yesterday as the WEU and Nato launched a joint naval operation in the Adriatic to enforce United Nations sanctions against Serbia.

John Major said Britain was ready to provide air cover for the land corridor, should it be established, but no ground troops would be committed. Mr Major, however, has expressed great reservations about the feasibility of a corridor. Only two days ago at the G7 summit in Munich he and Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said there were no firm plans to establish one.

A flotilla of at least five vessels will be deployed as soon as possible to monitor movements into former Yugoslavia. Serbia is reported to be getting oil shipments along the Danube from Romania. Its only other main conduit for outside supplies would be through the port of Bar in Montenegro.

At the same time the WEU will look at ways of opening a land corridor while a fresh UN security council resolution is expected next week, allowing a broadening of military operations such as the interception of ships.

The decision came as Milan Panic, the new Yugoslav prime minister, arrived here

unexpectedly in an attempt to avert his country's total isolation. He was refused access to the summit Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, from which Yugoslavia had been suspended, but held talks elsewhere with James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and President Tudjman of Croatia.

His mission surprised everyone and fuelled rumours that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, was prepared to resign. Officials here said that nothing short of a move would make any difference to the tightening of the diplomatic and economic noose around Serbia.

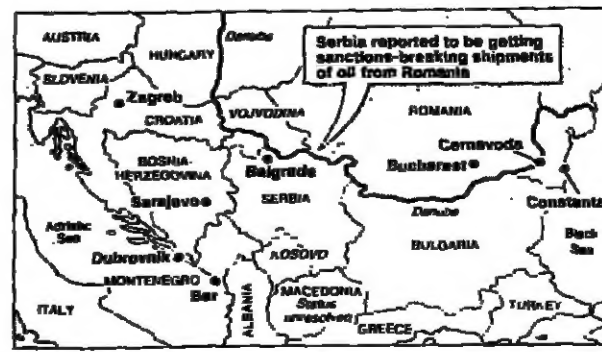
After talks with Mr Baker he promised to comply with all UN resolutions, stop the ethnic cleansing and do all he could to stop the fighting. He sidestepped questions about the possible resignation of Mr Milosevic, but compared his position to that of an American

governor while he [Panic] was like a president.

"He does his job, I do mine. God help him if he gets in my way," Mr Panic declared at a bizarre press conference. He said that he had "the great dream of a little American" to bring peace and respect to his native country, and wanted UN observers in all regions where there was fighting. Commenting on the decisions by the WEU and Nato, he said he did not want more weapons in the area.

American officials said Mr Baker believed that Mr Panic was not in full control. Mr Baker told him he should stop the fighting, allow humanitarian aid to go on, disband the Serbian forces and bring them under international control. Mr Panic later had talks with Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister. Continued on page 20, col 6

Frontline hotel, page 14



## Private operators 'to lease trains'

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE sector rail companies will be able to lease new and used trains under proposals outlined in the government's long-awaited rail privatisation white paper to be published early next week.

Rolling stock leasing agreements, which the government hopes will help encourage private companies to improve the provision of passenger and freight rail services, is part of a package of measures designed to overhaul the structure, ownership, and operation of the national rail network.

Under the new agreements, private rail companies will be able to obtain their own rolling stock from the manufacturers via the banks or financial institutions which have raised the capital to buy them. The technique, which is widely used by continental rail organisations, would enable private rail companies to pay for their trains over a period of years, thereby eliminating the need to shoulder the cost of the entire investment on their balance sheets.

In theory, leasing agreements would help give private passenger and freight operators access to the rolling stock they need to provide new rail services, in much the same way as leasing agreements have enabled new airline companies to provide new services in the liberalised air transport sector.

In practice, however, the effectiveness of rolling stock leasing agreements would depend to a large extent on the length of the franchises for which the trains have been leased to serve. Few private companies would be prepared to lease rolling stock, which could take up to 25 years to pay for, if their service franchise lasted for only five or ten years.

Moreover, very few manufacturers would be prepared to enter the market to make rolling stock available to private operators unless they were guaranteed long or renewable leases or given franchises with rolling stock buy-back clauses. Unlike airlines, much of Britain's rolling stock is built for the particular routes on which it runs, and it therefore cannot be transferred to other routes. Hitherto, ministers have prevented Continued on page 20, col 3

## Manx death sentence

What will probably be the last death sentence in the United Kingdom for murder was passed by an Isle of Man court yesterday on an apprentice electrician.

The sentence, on Tony Teare, found guilty of slitting a girl's throat and leaving her to bleed to death, is expected to be commuted to life imprisonment. Page 3

## Airbus probe

An investigation of a \$3-billion (£1.57 billion) deal involving 100 aircraft, between Airbus Industrie and United Airlines, is being mounted by the American government. Page 21

## Clamp query

The activities of private clamping are to be investigated by the government after a barrister uncovered a way motorists could reclaim cars without paying fines to security firms. Page 20

## Anorexia child

The Court of Appeal, giving reasons for a ruling that an anorexic girl of 16 could undergo specialist treatment against her will, revealed that the court could and must override a child's wishes, if it was deemed in her best medical interests. Page 5

## Charge words

The Crown Prosecution Service, seeking to close a legal loophole which could result in thousands of convictions being quashed, has issued new guidance about the wording of drink-drive charges. Page 2

## Rabin ready

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister-in-waiting, will control foreign policy and may also fill the defence portfolio in his new government. Page 12

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Is there a passer-by in the house?



## In case of emergency, don't call for a doctor

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU are going to collapse, it may be thought the best place to do so would be in hospital. But a new study of consultants' skills in giving the kiss of life suggests most people would stand a better chance if found comatose by a passer-by in the street.

Of 24 consultants at Bedford General hospital who volunteered to demonstrate how they would attempt to revive a collapsed patient, 42 per cent performed so poorly they scored zero marks. None was judged "adequate" in giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and compressing the chest, when measured against the standard laid down by the Resuscitation Council of the UK.

The consultants, with an average 20

years medical experience, were asked to carry out basic life support, on a manikin laid on the floor, with the help of a non-medical "passer-by". They were scored on a range of factors including the rate of compressions of the chest and whether the breaths given ventilated it properly. But in every case their performance was "extremely poor," according to the authors of the study published in the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians*.

"What this shows is that if a consultant came across a collapsed person in the street they would be very little better, and may even be worse, than a lay member of the public," said Dr Jeremy Saunders, consultant physician at the Bedford General and one of the authors of the study. "Sometimes a bit of knowledge can be harmful."

Dr Saunders said only half the consultants in the hospital had responded to the invitation to demonstrate their skills but the rest were "unlikely to be better." The level of performance was likely to be the same elsewhere, he said.

In hospitals, junior doctors are mainly involved in resuscitation because they are on the spot when most crises occur. Their performance, however, is little better. A study of 31 newly qualified doctors last year showed that fewer than half were capable of reviving someone who had collapsed effectively.

But there is hope. After two hours training, two thirds of the Bedford General consultants had improved their skills so much they scored maximum marks and none scored zero. Regular refresher courses are needed, the study's authors say.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

SUNDAY'S RAINBOW



Sabbath-black clothes have been traded for multi-coloured leisure wear. What does Sunday mean now? Saturday Review Page 10

LITTLE GOLD IN ELDORADO



Lynne Truss finds the new TV soap less than sparkling. Weekend Times Page 3

GOLF AND THE GREENS



Defenders of the British countryside cry foul over the new fairways. Weekend Times Page 1

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# Crown acts to close drink-driving loophole



Sexton: found flaw in wording of charges

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Crown Prosecution Service acted yesterday to close a loophole in the drink-driving laws after the High Court upheld the acquittal of a man because the standard wording of the charge against him was flawed. It is feared that the ruling could result in thousands of convictions being quashed.

The prosecution service issued fresh guidance to area prosecutors about the wording of drink-drive charges after its appeal against the man's acquittal was denied. As the instructions were issued, the lawyer who spotted the flaw said that up to one hundred people a day had contacted him seeking assistance with claims for compensation. "We expect a flood of further queries because our experience indicates that this practice has occurred throughout the country," Sean Sexton, a Liverpool solicitor, said.

The wording, frequently used by prosecutors and police throughout the country since 1967, is said to be duplicitous because it accuses defendants of breaching either one or two sections of the Road Traffic Act involving drink-driving or being drunk in charge, but not necessarily driving a vehicle.

Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Pill ruled in favour of Terry Corkoran, 43, unemployed, from Merseyside, who was acquitted by magistrates at Bootle in January this year. He had been charged with "failing without reasonable cause to provide a specimen of breath for analysis in the course of an investigation under section four or five of the Road Traffic Act".

The High Court ruled that the charge for refusing a specimen of breath should specify in what circumstances the refusal took place. A spokesman for the prosecution service said: "We have sent out fresh guidance with the High Court judgment to our prosecutors. It tells them that, in drawing up a charge, it must specify the circumstances in which the refusal to provide a specimen of breath took place."

He said that the service had no idea of how many prosecutors and police had been using the same form of words as Merseyside. He suggested that some areas had been using the correct form but conceded that the service had never thought it necessary to put greater details into the charge as these would be revealed during the court hearing.

Mr Sexton said he believed that police authorities across the country had used a similar wording to that used in Merseyside.

The High Court ruling could mean that at least 100,000 drivers convicted of refusing to give a breath specimen to police in the past 20 years could have their convictions quashed. People convicted of offences have 28 days in which to lodge an appeal. Those who do not

must then apply to the court for leave to appeal.

Mr Sexton said: "Under British law, if someone is not guilty of an offence then they are innocent. And thousands of people have been wrongly convicted."

He said 150 of those querying their convictions had filled in questionnaires supplying further details and all the cases appeared to have been duplicitous. "The courts should never have heard these charges." Applications would be made to the appropriate crown court for leave to appeal, he said.

"Obviously some people are going to profit from the decision when they don't deserve to. But that's a failure of the system and now the consequences will have to be met."

## Editor of Mail resigns after 21 years to be chairman

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR David English has relinquished the editorship of the *Daily Mail* after 21 years to succeed Lord Rothermere as chairman of Associated Newspapers. He is to be replaced by Paul Dacre, editor of the *Evening Standard*, triggering the biggest reshuffle of editors since newspapers dispersed from Fleet Street.

Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, has also let it be known that he is to stand down by next March as he has long intended. No replacement has yet been found for Mr Jenkins, whose announcement was precipitated by reports that Mr Dacre had been approached about taking over as editor of *The Times*.

In a statement issued to his staff last night, Mr Jenkins said: "It was always my intention to stand down as editor in the course of this year to resume my writing career. This was agreed between myself, Rupert Murdoch and the independent directors of *The Times* in March 1990."

"I said then that I meant to be a short-term editor and that two years was the period I felt was needed to set the paper on a new course. This has been achieved and a period of consolidation is under way. Circulation is now rising, as is market share."

"At the end of the two-year period in March, I was asked to stay on. I agreed, but was unwilling to go beyond my years. Mr Murdoch and I accepted that the company

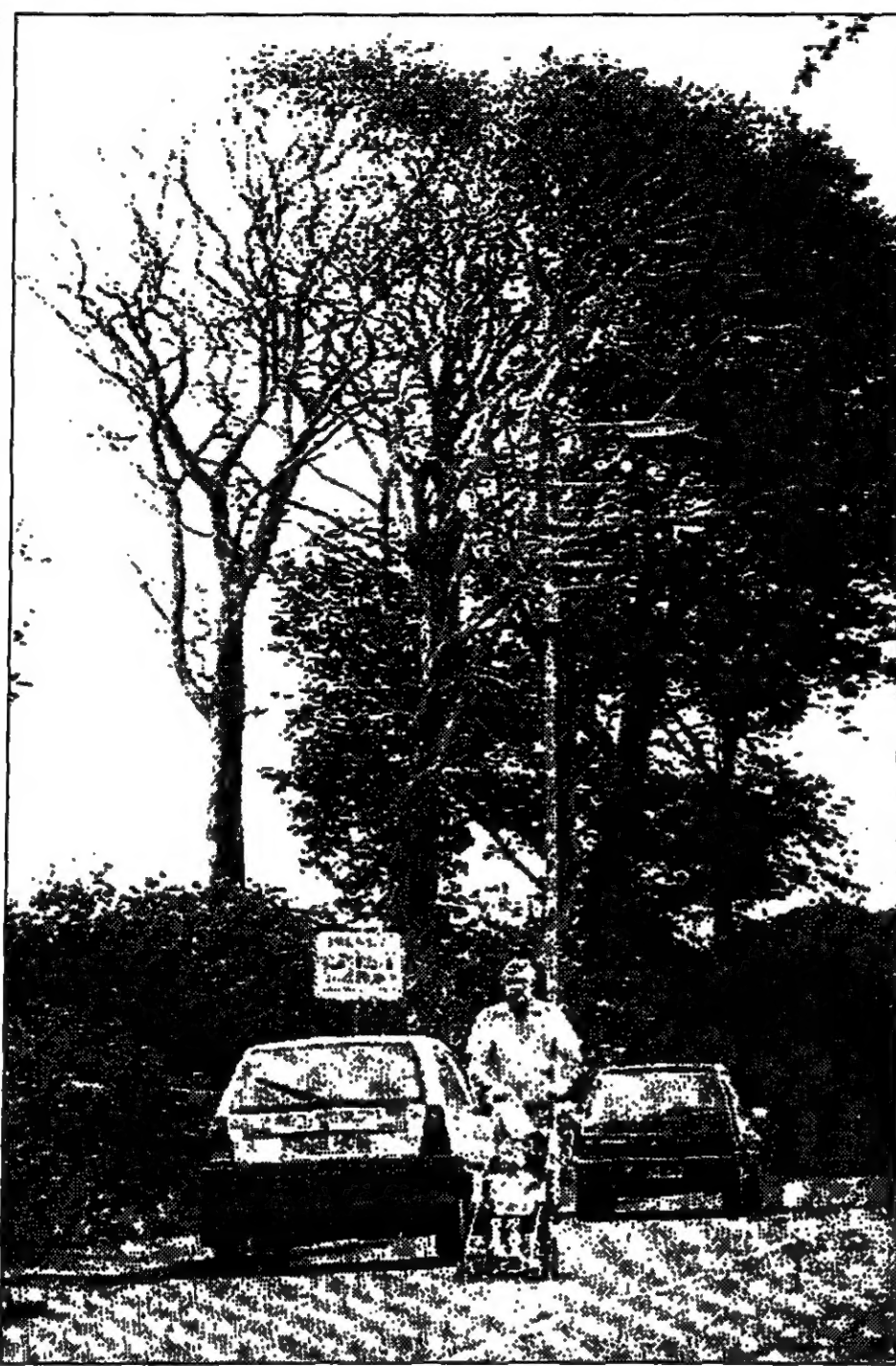
would have to consider a successor by the year's end. We have been in complete agreement about this. There is no intention of changing the existing character of the paper. Various people have been approached and this process will continue."

"From the start, it was always my intention to make *The Times* a writer's paper and one for which I wanted to write. When I do stand down, I intend to contribute a regular column and, in consultation with my successor, play a continuing role in the intellectual life of *The Times*. I mean at least to see the paper through the current year. *The Times* is in good shape and good heart and will remain so."

The appointment of a new *Times* editor would have to be ratified by the six independent directors.

In the changes at the *Daily Mail*, Sir David English will retain his post as editor-in-chief, which he has held since 1989. Stewart Steven, editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, becomes editor of the *Evening Standard*, while Jonathan Holborow, the *Daily Mail* deputy editor, becomes editor of *The Mail on Sunday*. Nick Gordon is also leaving the editorship of *The Mail on Sunday* magazine, *YOU*, and will be succeeded by Dee Nolan.

Mr Jenkins, a former editor of the *Evening Standard*, said Mr Dacre had done "a wonderful job" and said he was "an admirable successor" to Sir David.



Passing clouds stripped of their leaves in the village of Woodhorn, Northumberland, yesterday after a toxic cloud from an aluminium smelter passed over the area. An investigation is underway into the incident which British Alcan in nearby Lynemouth blamed on freak weather conditions. Five days of heavy mist and a "high incidence" of stack fires. Alan Dodds, from Woodhorn, said that leaves were burned off his willow and laburnum trees as well as plants and flowers. Wansbeck council, which ordered the investigation after complaints from 20 people, said the incident was not thought to be a health risk. The trees and plants are expected to recover.

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## Health team to oversee reforms

BY JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TASK force is to be set up to ensure that the government's community care reforms, which give local councils responsibility for caring for the elderly and the mentally handicapped in the community, are properly implemented when they come into effect next April.

Brian Mawhinney, the health minister, announced yesterday that the health department's team of social services and NHS professionals will also put pressure on local authorities to ensure that they buy services from the private sector.

The councils will be expected to put together individual care programmes. The government's intention has always been to encourage a mixture of private and public care with private and voluntary organisations contributing to domiciliary care and support services in the community.

Speaking at a conference organised by the Association of Directors of Social Services yesterday, Dr Mawhinney criticised local authorities for failing to co-operate with the private sector. A recent study showed that the private sector had not been involved or consulted in the preparation of care plans, he said.

"This is obviously a poor starting point for developing the sense of trust and co-operation which must exist. One of the most important opportunities presented by these reforms is the chance to increase choice." Dr Mawhinney warned people not to expect too much too soon. "Benefits will flow from these reforms over a decade. The nature of this policy is fundamentally incremental. April next year will not see a solution to every social services problem," he said.

The task force will be jointly led by Terry Butler, director of social services for Hampshire County Council, and Andrew Foster, deputy chief executive of the NHS management executive. Over the summer they will appoint a team which will include a GP, a financial expert and someone from the private sector.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Colour copier forger jailed for two years

Attempts by a forger to produce bogus banknotes on a sophisticated colour copier succeeded only in producing notes with a Queen's head watermark that bore a better resemblance to Quasimodo. Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday. George Orchard, 59, a self-employed electrician, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison after he admitted turning the garage of his house in Eltham, southeast London, into a base for forging tax discs and licences for heavy goods vehicles.

He also forged dollars and sterling bills, tax discs and licences for heavy goods vehicles. He admitted charges of possessing counterfeit notes, forging documents, handling stolen goods, possessing materials for forgery and fraudulent use of an excise licence. Judge Anwyl-Davies told him: "Our national currency must be maintained. The counterfeiting of the currency of the realm is exceedingly serious."

### Bottomley complains

Peter Bottomley, Conservative MP for Eltham, yesterday asked the Press Complaints Commission to adjudicate on whether a story in *The Independent's* Diary column that his son was born three months before he and his wife Virginia, the health secretary, were married breached its code of conduct. Mrs Bottomley said yesterday that the timing of her son's birth in 1967 was "no secret" but that it was a private "family matter". Andreas Whitam Smith, editor of *The Independent*, said the story was in the public interest following Mrs Bottomley's promise earlier this week to curb teenage pregnancies. "I think it's a significant fact worth recording that she was once herself an unwed teenage mother."

### Painting makes £1.4m

Three views of Venice by Canaletto which belonged to the late Jim Joel, the racehorse owner and breeder who died aged 97 in March, made a total of £2.7 million at Christie's in London yesterday. The pictures were in the top five of the firm's £5.2 million end-of-season Old Master sale. *The Grand Canal Looking East from the Campo di S. Vio* made £1.4 million and *The Grand Canal Looking North from the Rialto Bridge* went for £990,000, each well above the £800,000 high estimate. The paintings were once in the Bavarian Royal Collection before passing to the Alte Pinakothek Museum in Munich museum, where they were exchanged for other works in 1939. The third Joel picture, a part studio composition called *Entrance to the Grand Canal*, sold for £297,000.

### Police to pay damages

A teenager who was unlawfully arrested and assaulted by police was awarded damages yesterday of £13,750 against the chief constables of Humberside and Lincolnshire police forces. Richard Plange, now aged 19, brother of David Plange, the British international rugby league player, was arrested in an assault inquiry during a Scunthorpe v Hull City football match three years ago. Grimsby County Court was told. He was taken in a police dog van next to two caged albatrosses to a local station for questioning before being handcuffed and driven nine miles to Grimsby. Throughout questioning he had told police he could not have committed an assault at a village disco because he was in London at the time, but he was held for more than two hours before his alibi was confirmed.

### Money worries

Anxiety over money difficulties affects one third of professional adults and one in five is suffering insomnia worrying about making ends meet, according to a Gallup survey published yesterday. The survey of 1,000 people around the country for American Express's personal financial planning arm Acuma shows that money matters during the recession are the most common cause of domestic strife, with 28 per cent afraid of losing their jobs. Under half have made a will and 84 per cent expressed no concern that their families might not be financially secure if they died.

### Murder weapon order

Albert Dryden, the ex-steelworker serving a life sentence for killing Derwentide council's chief planner officer last June, yesterday asked permission in Durham Crown Court for the murder weapon, an Enfield revolver, to be sold. He said he had been offered as much as £20,000 for the gun. His barrister, Mr Ron Mitchell, said the prisoner was not seeking cash for the gun's notoriety value but the "best price in a sale that would be supervised by the police." Mr Justice Waite ordered that the revolver and the rest of his arsenal be destroyed immediately.

### Antique panel returns

The central panel from a £80,000 baroque altar piece, stolen from the Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, last November, was recovered yesterday from an antique shop in Marylebone. It was spotted by a dealer who, with the gallery owner, contacted the museum and the police. Marjorie Truett, assistant head of sculpture, later returned it to the museum. "We are delighted and extremely pleased to get it back," Robyn Griffiths-Jones, head of marketing, said.

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## Osman makes his eighth freedom bid after seven years on remand

LORRAINE Osman, former banker and Britain's longest-serving remand prisoner, is expected to step outside prison gates on Monday for the first time in five years.

Mr Osman, 60, will be taken to the High Court for the hearing of his latest attempt to block moves to extradite him to Hong Kong, where he is wanted on multi-million-dollar fraud charges.

His lawyers, with support from a cross-party group of MPs, will make his eighth application for a writ of *habeas corpus* freeing him from custody on the grounds that the Hong Kong government is continuing to refuse to disclose key documents in the case.

Mr Osman is now in his seventh year on remand at Brixton Prison, but has never before personally gone to

court for one of the many hearings in the marathon legal battle that has so far prevented his removal from the UK.

He was arrested in north London in 1985, but has never been charged in Britain. He faces 39 charges of fraud and theft in Hong

Kong related to the 1983 collapse of Carrian Investments, a shipping and property group which left debts of more than US\$700 million.

He was chairman of Carrian's biggest creditor, Bumiputra Malaysia Finance, the Hong Kong-based subsidiary of BMB, Malaysia's largest bank. He is fighting extradition because he feels a fair trial in Hong Kong is impossible.

A 22-year-old Briton convicted of stabbing a man to death during a nightclub fight on Corfu was granted bail by magistrates in London today. Richard Smith-Anderson was arrested on an extradition warrant on June 3. He was accused of absconding from Corfu after the Greek authorities allowed him "home leave" to visit his mother on the island.



Osman: making first court appearance

## Peers caught in time warp

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

IN THE House of Lords, where time can grind exceedingly slow, it now stands still. The machinations of the Upper House have been put on hold by the faulty mechanics of modern timepieces.

All clocks in the Chamber and the Peers' Lobby have stopped at 12 o'clock - peers are unclear whether noon or midnight - at the very moment when the Lords' own clock-keepers are absent.

The large gothic clocks have ticked so reliably since being linked to a central battery supply in 1946 that few attendants knew where to obtain the replacement batteries. An appeal to the Home

Office has located the rare batteries but no time-keeper to fit them. One has just retired and the other is on indefinite sick leave.

Lord Hesketh, government chief whip in the Lords, told peers of the fate of "the gothic timepiece that is of the analogue variety in the house". He feared that the ghost of Thomas Tompion, the master clockmaker who fashioned the workings of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich in 1676, may have taken belated umbrage at the installation of battery power.

To ensure all is not timeless amid the ethereal atmosphere of the Lords, a replacement will be installed which, Lord Hesketh said, "should ensure that, rather than indicating

midday or midnight, there will be for your lordships' convenience an accurate representation of time as it exists".

The situation may be more to the convenience of the Queen, who always arrives for the state opening of parliament punctually at 11.15. "Presumably," Lord Whaddon said, "she can now come along when she likes."

### CORRECTION

Our table yesterday on top people's pay should have made clear that it is stipendiary magistrates who are remunerated; lay magistrates receive only modest expenses.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

HOME NEWS 3

## Manx court passes death sentence on woman's killer

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A COURT in the Isle of Man yesterday passed what will probably be the United Kingdom's last death sentence for murder when an apprentice electrician was found guilty of slitting a young woman's throat and leaving her to bleed to death.

There was silence in the Court of General Gaol in Douglas as the judge, Deemster Callow, read the traditional words of the death sentence to Tony Teare, 22, of Ramsey, on the north-east of the island, for the murder of Corinne Bentley, also 22. He said: "The sentence of the court is that you will be taken from this place to the Isle of Man jail and thence to a place of execution, and there you will be hanged by the neck until you are dead and your body buried in the jail or some other place as shall be decided by the court." He did not don a black cap to pass the sentence.

The island is the only part of the United Kingdom where the death penalty is mandatory for murder, but it is expected that Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, will

recommend that the Queen exercise the royal prerogative of mercy to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

Teare has 28 days in which to appeal. The Home Office said: "If the sentence is upheld, it will then be referred to the home secretary who, in the past, has always recommended to the Queen that it should be commuted to life imprisonment."

In the past week, the Home Office has received from the island's parliament a draft bill to abolish the death penalty. The penalty for murder was abolished in Britain in 1965 and in Jersey in 1986. The last time it was imposed for murder in the Isle of Man was in 1983. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. The last execution on the island took place in 1872.

The death penalty still exists in England and Wales for treason, certain offences under the Armed Forces Act and for piracy. In Scotland, it exists for treason, breaches of armed forces law but not piracy. In Northern Ireland,

the death penalty remains in force for treason and piracy but not for offences under the Armed Forces Act.

The last people to be hanged in Britain were Peter Allen, who was executed at Liverpool in August 1964 for murder, and his co-defendant, Gwynne Evans, who was hanged at Manchester on the same day. The last woman to be executed was Ruth Ellis, in July 1955.

Teare showed no emotion as the sentence was passed. There were murmurs of approval from the packed court room as the jury of six men and six women returned their unanimous verdict after only 80 minutes out of the court.

Last night, Teare was being held in solitary confinement in Douglas jail to await his appeal. If his sentence is commuted to life imprisonment, Teare will be moved to prison in England to serve his term.

Teare claimed in court that he had been offered £600 by a workmate to kill Miss Bentley, who had recently left her job caring for elderly people. She had her throat repeatedly slashed with a craft knife, was beaten and left for dead in a remote lane.

Unknown to Teare, she was still alive after the attack. Bleeding heavily and unable to scream for help because of her injuries, she staggered 350 yards to a farmhouse, where she stumbled into a disused silage pit. Her body was found 12 days later.

The prosecution at Teare's six-day trial said that it was "one of the most wicked and horrific" ever committed on the island. The judge said the evidence showed that Teare was responsible for "a cold, calculated killing of a defenceless, trusting, young woman".

## Witness tells of finding dead wife

A WITNESS described yesterday how a young woman ran into a pub "in extreme distress" and screaming for help after she found the body of Alison Shaughnessy.

Ian Finlay, an architect, told the Central Criminal Court that he was drinking in a pub near Mrs Shaughnessy's home in Battersea, southwest London, when the woman rushed in.

"She said 'Help me, help me. Call the police - my friend is dead.' She repeated that at least two or three times. The girl was clearly agitated," he said.

The witness says the woman was Michelle Taylor, 21, a domestic worker from Forest Hill, south London, who is accused with her sister, Lisa, 18, of murdering Mrs Shaughnessy on June 3 last year. Both pleaded not guilty.

Mr Finlay said he and two other men went with the woman to see what they could do. One had a mobile phone and tried to dial 999. When they arrived he found Mrs Shaughnessy's husband outside on the pavement. "He was in a shocked state and asked if we had called the police," Mr Finlay said. Mr Shaughnessy asked: "Is she dead? Tell me she is not dead."

Mr Finlay said he and his friend Roger Nicholls went upstairs and found the body. "She looked as if she had fallen wedged in the doorway," he said. "Mr Nicholls felt her neck for a pulse. He said he thought her throat had been cut. She looked pretty dead to him."

The prosecution claims that Mrs Shaughnessy, 21, was stabbed 54 times in a

jealous rage by Michelle Taylor, who was Mr Shaughnessy's mistress, and her sister.

In a statement read to the court by the deputy prosecution counsel, Joanna Korner, Michelle Taylor said that she became hysterical when she found Mrs Shaughnessy's body. She said that she gave John Shaughnessy a lift home after they stayed late arranging flowers at the Churchill Clinic where they worked on June 3. When they arrived at his home in Vardens Road she decided to go in to have a chat with his wife.

"As they entered, Mr Shaughnessy noticed the deadlock on the front door - which his wife always kept secure - was not locked. Inside, she said, he suddenly shouted: 'Alison! Alison!'"

The statement continued: "I ran up the stairs and saw Alison lying at the top of the stairs. She was stiff and had blood in her mouth. Apart from the body, everything seemed normal in the flat. None of the windows were open."

The court was told that police had asked Michelle Taylor if she knew whether Mr Shaughnessy had or was having any extramarital affairs. She allegedly said that two months earlier, Mrs Shaughnessy told her about a former girl friend called Natalie, who was in Ireland and had telephoned him, which caused arguments. Police said she claimed Mr Shaughnessy had also visited a woman called Katie, who she believed was a girl friend, in the United States.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.



Returning to sender: Terry Waite and Joy Brodier meeting yesterday under the Bunyan window

## Waite meets sender of Bunyan postcard

Terry Waite yesterday met the woman whose postcard of John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, inspired him during his five-year captivity.

Mr Waite warmly embraced Joy Brodier before the stained glass window in the Bunyan Meeting House in Bedford depicting Bunyan in his prison cell. For a moment, the former Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy gazed at the window.

As he kissed Mrs Brodier on the cheek and cradled her four-month-old baby Rachel in his arms, he said: "It is marvellous to be here. It's something I wanted to do for a number of months. It means a lot, not only for what Joy did in sending the card but she also represents a lot of people all over the world who sent cards to the hostages and did not forget them."

Mrs Brodier, 38, a former teacher,

was watching television when Mr Waite returned from Beirut last November and recalled her postcard in a moving speech at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. "I could not believe it," she said. "I was not sure at first it was my card that got to him because so many people must have sent them, but then it turned out it was."

Mr Waite, looking fit and in good spirits and accompanied by his wife Frances, recalled the day his guard brought him the 15p postcard as he sat blindfolded and chained to the wall of his cell. "He was very surprised. He could not understand how complete strangers would send a card or cards to those of us who were held hostage."

"I looked at this card so often. I was given a Bible and I kept it in the Bible. I thought I must at all cost remember the name of the person who sent it so

when I got out I would be able to contact them."

"Then of course the card was taken. One morning I had been to the bathroom. I came back and my room had been searched." Turning to Mrs Brodier, he said: "Your card had gone and I never saw it again."

Mrs Brodier has since sent him another card showing the same window and carrying the same message. It is framed in Mr Waite's home. Mr Waite, who is working on his memoirs, used the meeting to launch a £1 million appeal for the charity Y Care International which he founded eight years ago to look after young people worldwide. All proceeds will be divided between Y Care and Amnesty International, responsible for a letter-writing campaign to prisoners and hostages.

## Boy raider gets four years

A FEW hours after being expelled from school for drug-taking, Craig Fairweather, 16, held up two banks with a replica Magnum revolver, a court was told yesterday.

He carried notes threatening to shoot if cashiers refused to hand over money. David Barnes, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court, London. The raids were filmed by security cameras.

Fairweather was working for a man in his twenties with a criminal record for armed robbery who drove the getaway car, the court was told. Police are still seeking him.

Fairweather, of Kentish Town, north London, was ordered to be detained in a young offenders' institution for four years. He pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

Mr Barnes said that, after being ordered out of school on February 20 for taking LSD, Fairweather met a north London criminal who gave him the revolver and two hand printed notes demand-

ing money. The man then drove Fairweather to Barclays Bank in Crickwood, northwest London, and told him how to carry out the raid. He went into the bank, terrorising customers and staff, and told cashiers to fill a plastic shopping bag with notes.

Mr Barnes said that the raid was foiled when the staff ducked behind the counter, leaving Fairweather banging on the security screen with the gun before fleeing empty handed.

Seventeen minutes later, after being driven four miles to Lloyds Bank in Highgate, Fairweather pushed a demand note to a woman cashier. He pointed the revolver at a customer, while other customers ran from the bank to telephone police. A cashier gave Fairweather £2,460, Mr Barnes said.

Oliver Blunt, for the defence, said that Fairweather had fallen easy prey to a hardened criminal who enrolled him into crime. Most of the robbery loot had gone to the accomplice.



Fairweather: easy prey for hardened criminal

## Customs seize 20,000 disposable lighters

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH customs officers have seized more than 20,000 disposable cigarette lighters in an attempt to halt smuggling. They are concerned that smugglers are trying to flood the market before the current duty system is dismantled.

According to Scottish customs yesterday, the raids were carried out on retailers selling lighters at well below the market price. Lighters worth £10,000 were taken from shops in Glasgow, the west coast and Western Isles.

Detectives suspect the IRA is smuggling lighters to raise cash. Millions may be in store in the Irish Republic ready to be smuggled into Britain via the province. The IRA could be profiting by charging a toll for cross-border smuggling or by moving the lighters to British distributors.

Few countries in Europe now charge tax on lighters. Bought from continental manufacturers at little more

than 20p each, the lighters can be sold in Britain at two or three for £1 and undercut genuine imports, which have to pay 50p duty and 17.5 per cent VAT per lighter.

It is believed that up to 20 million lighters a year are being smuggled into Britain at a loss of £15 million in taxes. This year's Budget announced that the duty will stop at the end of the year. The delay has meant that the Treasury has given smugglers a period of grace to get rid of their stocks.

According to friends of Mr Jones, the allegations involve the use of an official car and driver for two trips Mr Jones made outside London to Redruth, Cornwall, and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, to support the Metropolitan police's rugby team. Mr Jones was and is president of the force club. The allegation about the launch involves the use of the boat for a trip with a former police officer to the Isle of Dogs. The two trips abroad involve one of an international police conference at Lyons and arrangements for a trip to Moscow.

BY

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The Goebbels diaries



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Hitler's Minister for Propaganda  
September 1938

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## Giotto closes on comet

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

EUROPEAN space scientists were jubilant yesterday at the results of a close encounter between the spacecraft Giotto and the comet Grigg-Skjellerup 130,000 miles above the Earth.

"It's been a great success - the encounter has exceeded all expectations," said a member of the team from University College London, whose plasma analyser was the first instrument to detect the comet six hours before the closest approach. The instrument was able to detect highly ionised particles coming from the tail of the comet and to make measurements of the interaction between the tail and the solar wind - particles flowing outwards from the Sun.

The other British experiment on board, a system for detecting the impact of dust particles designed by scientists from the University of Kent, also made some good observations shortly after the closest approach, which is believed to have taken Giotto within 125 miles of the comet's nucleus at 4.31pm yesterday.

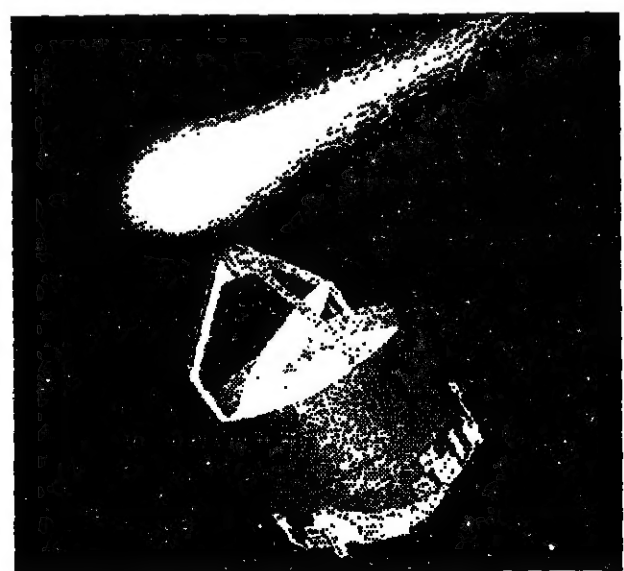
Six years ago, Giotto made a close approach to Halley's Comet, during which its camera was damaged. As a result, there were no live pictures from yesterday's en-

counter, but plasma, radio wave, optical and dust data were collected. The team at the control centre of the European Space Agency in Darmstadt in Germany declared the results highly satisfactory.

"We got some excellent data and the fascinating thing is that it is so different from the data from Halley," Dr Alan Johnson from University College London said. The evidence suggests that Grigg-Skjellerup, which is

older than Halley, was surrounded by more gas and finer dust particles.

The hope now is that Giotto, built by British Aerospace for a single mission, might be able to take a look at a third comet if the instruments have survived and there is enough fuel left. The spacecraft would be pushed into a new orbit for several years of hibernation until another comet is located for it to study.



## Therapist offers cure for first-night nerves

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

STAGE fright haunts even the most successful actors. Laurence Olivier suffered so badly that he had to instruct his fellow actors not to look him in the eyes on stage and Derek Jacobi had to give up live performances when he was struck by fear.

But there is no record of professionals getting the kind of service that 300 young actors taking part in next week's Lloyds Theatre Challenge are being offered: an agony aunt on 24-hour call.

Hester Damaris, a psycho-therapist who is used by film and media companies as an actors' counsellor, has been hired by the National Theatre to be on call throughout the three day event at the Olivier Theatre in case of any health-threatening attacks of first-night nerves.

Suzi Graham Adriani, producer of the event for the past three years, said: "It's hard to understand how traumatic it can be to appear on the stage of the Olivier. Hardened professionals qualify."

"These youngsters, aged from 11 to 19, arrive in the morning, have two hours' technical rehearsal, and then they're on. It can be the most terrifying thing they've ever experienced."

will compete on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, are to be given digs in university halls in London where posters bearing Miss Damaris's telephone number will remind them of the service.

In previous years, hitches have been no worse than one 15-year-old locking herself in the lavatory before her performance and a 13-year-old getting seriously drunk after his so much so that Miss Adriani has sent stern warnings to the leaders of this year's finalists about the dangers of alcohol.

Two hundred groups from across the country entered the competition, and 11 have come through to perform at the National. Many of the young actors will be supremely confident, Miss Adriani said, but "in case there are problems" there needs to be support.

Miss Damaris, a former actress, could not be contacted last night but her representative, Richard Barnes, said: "In her usual work she could be described as a 'threat therapist', advising celebrities who receive hate mail. This will be a far less radical form of counselling, we hope."

Theatre guide  
L&T section, page 2



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## Cardinal Hum lonely life of

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**DISCOVERY**



## Government accused of incompetence in failing to make thousands of properties available to the homeless

### Charity blames Whitehall for wasting empty houses

A HOUSING charity has accused the government of having a shameful record in making use of empty residential property when a record number of people are homeless.

The Empty Homes Agency, which is partly funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was set up in February to work for the occupation of more empty homes. It has uncovered incompetence in government departments and a failure to use their buildings for the homeless. The worst offenders are the Ministry of Defence, which has 10,000 empty married quarters, about 14 per cent of its housing stock, and the health department, which has about 14,000 empty units (about 16 per cent).

Poor record keeping by the departments makes it difficult to estimate exact percentages, the agency says. It calculates that an extra 10,000 homes could be made available.

The homes are empty either because they are sur-

Officials are ignoring guidelines on the use of empty property, writes Rachel Kelly

plus or because redevelopment or refurbishment is pending. But they could be used for short-term lettings, which was recommended by the government in a guidance note to departments earlier this year.

Bob Lawrence, an executive from the agency, says: "We have tracked down 91 dwellings in three locations, all empty for more than three years. In all three cases, relevant interested parties have offered to rent but the government departments offer a range of reasons for their inactivity."

Typical excuses for homes lying vacant for up to four years are that the department plans to sell a building, that it might not get vacant possession or

that the buildings are not surplus to requirements. Mr Lawrence says. One example is a building in Sillingstone Street, south-west London. The 48 two and three-bedroom flats in the 1930s block in a quiet street were once used by servicemen but have been empty for three years.

The MoD was offered rent of £135,000 a year for the block in February by a housing association, but turned it down, saying that the buildings were not surplus.

Nearly six months later, very little work has been done and the flats still stand empty. Issue, a magazine edited by homeless people, will report on the case next month.

The ministry said: "A major refurbishment is nearing completion. We expect to have people in the flats by 1993. We do occasionally lease to housing associations and councils, but the MoD does not exist to provide housing for the community but for the MoD."



No vacancies: the two housing blocks near Charlwood, Surrey. Councils offered to lease them three years ago, but they remain empty

### Lease refused as bill rises for bed and breakfast

THE defence ministry owns 16 empty three-bedroom houses in Padstow, Cornwall. They are virtually unsaleable, but the ministry refuses to lease them to North Cornwall District Council, which has to pay £2,000 a week to house

12 families in bed and breakfasts. Half the houses have been empty for more than three years. They are made of reinforced concrete, have a defective design and no lender in the area will advance a loan. The ministry remains confident that

they will be sold by the end of the financial year.

Near Charlwood, Surrey, two housing blocks near a disused hospital have been empty for years. In 1989 two district councils contacted the regional health authority

about leasing each property for £5,000 to house the homeless. They were told that the properties were going to be redeveloped and that the authority did not want to lose control of them for more than a year. They are still empty.

### Judges explain why anorexic must be treated

By ALISON ROBERTS

TEENAGERS between the ages of 16 and 18 can be legally forced to accept medical treatment without their consent, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Giving the reasons for their judgment ordering a 16-year-old anorexic girl, known as J, to undergo specialist treatment against her will, the judges said that the court could and must override a child's wishes if it was deemed to be in their best medical interests.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said that the welfare of young people was paramount and that this involved "giving them the maximum degree of decision-making that is prudent". However, in the case of "J", the anorexic girl, the deterioration in her health led to the judgment against her.

"It was the change of circumstances which led me, in making the emergency order, to say that J's wishes were no longer of weight," Lord Donaldson said. "At that stage they were completely outweighed by the threat of irreparable damage to her health and risk to her life."

On June 30, the judges were told that J had not eaten for nine days, had lost 8lbs in 14 days and weighed 55.7lbs although 5ft 7in tall. She was in danger of suffering irreversible damage to her brain and reproductive system.

Lord Donaldson said that anorexia sometimes destroyed the ability of a sufferer to make a rational decision and Lord Justice Nolan said that the court had an inescapable responsibility to overrule J's wishes.

"In considering the welfare of the child, the court must not only recognise but if necessary defend the right of a child having sufficient understanding to take an informed decision to make his or her own choice," he said. "In the area of medical treatment, however, the court can intervene." The principle of coercion rather than persuasion

enshrined in yesterday's ruling undermines the 1969 Family Law Reform Act which gave teenagers over 16 and under 18 the right to refuse medical or dental treatment. Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, said that the wide ranging ruling was to be regretted.

"The judges could have limited it to this particular case and these particular circumstances, but they have chosen to make a wide ranging examination of adolescents' rights and really subject them to wishes of parents and doctors," he said. "It will undermine the sense of emerging citizenship in adolescents."

Professor Kennedy said that the ruling would lead to a diminution of an adolescent's right to control his or her body. "They are really saying until you reach 18 years saying no to treatment is only good if the doctors agree with you."

That the ruling could lead to abortions being carried out without the consent of 16 or 17-year-olds, Lord Donaldson said: "Whilst this may be possible as a matter of law, I do not see any likelihood, taking account of medical ethics, unless abortion was truly in the best interests of the child."

J's lawyers were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Lord Donaldson said that allowing an appeal would imply doubt as to whether the initial order had been rightly made and would send the wrong message to J. "We do not think that would be in her best medical interests," J can still apply to Law Lords for leave to appeal.

When the case came to the High Court, J emphasised that she did not want to get better and that there was no reason or motive for her to get better. Above all, she wanted to retain the control which has now been denied her.

### Cardinal Hume regrets lonely life of celibacy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CARDINAL Basil Hume has described the regrets and the longing he has suffered because he has been unable to marry. "Deep down we remain human, very human and we have all the desires to love and be loved by one other person," he said.

Speaking on BBC Radio Two's *Good Morning Sunday*, to be broadcast tomorrow, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster said: "I think it is very important to realise that people who choose to be celibate do so not because they have any opposition to marriage. We do it because we feel called to that way of life, called to the obligations which follow from being celibate."

"Every time I did a marriage, every time I see people married I say: 'That could have been me. So I think a successful celibate has to re-

gret that he wasn't married." Cardinal Hume, interviewed by Canon Colin Semper of Westminster Abbey, said the ordination of women was a serious obstacle to Christian unity.

"There is much we can build on to crawl back from the terrible divisions which took place in the sixteenth century, and the whole of our Christian endeavour at the present time has to be that we pray for unity and work for unity and do as much as we can together."

Women priests took away the immediacy of the work for Christian unity, he said. "It's a very difficult subject but the great Orthodox churches are against it, the Catholic church is against it."

"As far as I can see at the present time, I would say that women priests are not on our agenda."

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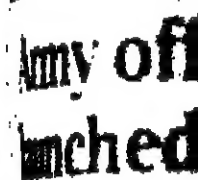
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## Orangemen 'worse than cannibals'

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent

THE Northern Ireland secretary yesterday denounced the behaviour of some Orangemen during a march in Belfast, which he said would have disgraced a tribe of cannibals.

Sir Patrick Mayhew's unusually outspoken comments come as the province braces itself for the annual Twelfth demonstrations this weekend when Protestants march at scores of rallies across Northern Ireland, to the irritation of many Roman Catholics.

This year the demonstrations got off to a particularly bad start with a big Orange parade up the predominantly Catholic Ormeau Road in central Belfast on Wednesday night, which passed a bookmaker's shop where five Catholics were shot dead by the Ulster Freedom Fighters in February.

An attempt at the High Court by nationalists to have the parade re-routed to avoid the bookmakers failed. In the event, members of some bands in the parade, which was organised by the Orange Order, took the opportunity to exchange insults with local Catholics as they passed the shop. One woman seemed to dance as she passed the scene of the massacre and marchers chanted "UFF" and "five-til".

The behaviour of the marchers has prompted strong criticism from politicians on both sides of the sectarian divide and from churchmen. Sir Patrick said that while people had a right

to march, they also had a duty to respect the feelings of those of the other tradition. He had been horrified by a video of the incident showing conduct that would have disgraced a tribe of cannibals let alone so-called Protestants marching under the flag of the United Kingdom.

He said that he was not criticising the Orange Order but only those engaged in offensive behaviour. He had spoken to the Rev Martin Smyth, the Grandmaster of the Order in Ireland, to ask him to urge Orangemen to show restraint and consideration this weekend.

Mr Smyth, MP for South Belfast, issued a statement yesterday regretting that some elements in the parade had not followed requests to behave with restraint. He said that Orangemen in the Ballynafeigh area on the Ormeau Road "have the right to march on their main road to the town centre. Any who may not wish to see them doing so need not watch. Certainly none need turn out to be provoked or provoke, never mind offer violence."

Tension in the area will remain high in the run up to another Orange parade which will pass the bookmakers on Monday. George Paton, general secretary of the Order, said that in spite of the danger of further friction and the insult felt by the Catholic community, the march would go ahead. "There's no other way into the city from the Ormeau Road."

## Daisies wanted for HIV research

By Paul Wilkinson

CHILDREN in Bradford, West Yorkshire, have been asked to collect two billion daisy leaves in a project that could produce a new treatment for Aids. The leaves are thought to contain a chemical with similar properties to one used to delay the onset of the disease in HIV carriers.

The chemical is present in such minute quantities that 10 bin liners full will produce just one gram of the extract. Researchers at the Bradford Royal Infirmary, who stumbled on its properties by accident, have appealed to the children to gather enough leaves for them to carry out a more detailed examination.

Monday has been declared Daisy Day, when the children are asked to bring their collections to the hospital. If they reach the target of two billion leaves, scientists will have about 20 grams of extract on which to work.

Emile Morgan, a consultant genito-urinary physician at St Luke's Hospital, Bradford, who specialises in treating Aids patients, said: "It is



Daisy chain: Saeka Rashid, 10, collecting for Monday's Daisy Day. Scientists are hoping for two billion leaves

not a miracle cure but it is helping to educate young people about Aids. When my patients ask me, 'Why should I go on living?' I can show them that things are happening and that the community is working to help them."

Dr Morgan, who is assisting the team from the royal infirmary, said that scientists in America discovered a chemical called castanospermine in certain tropical plants about four years ago which had a similar effect to AZT, used to delay the start of Aids. It attacks the virus, preventing it from splitting and growing.

The rarity of the plants made the treatment prohibitively expensive. The Bradford researchers were working on a different project, testing up to 100 common plants for their toxic effect on animals, when they found the similar characteristics of the daisy-leaf extract.

"The prospects are enormous if this works out," Dr Morgan said. "Instead of a rare plant, we have a common weed which people are desperate to get rid of."

## TV teaches children about Aids

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

PARENTS were urged to press school governors to increase and improve school-room Aids education yesterday after the publication of a survey showing that 70 per cent of 11-year-olds first heard about the condition from television.

Barnardo's, the children's charity, found that children know about HIV and Aids from as young as eight but that their knowledge was "patchy and punctuated by worry". The charity interviewed 524 youngsters aged 11 to 13.

"It's no longer a question of parents asking whether or when to tell their children because their children already know about Aids from news, like *EastEnders* or the news. Rather, it is about how they should find out and what they should be told," Gareth Richards of Barnardo's said.

One in ten of the children interviewed said they had learnt about HIV or Aids from their parents or teachers. But most understand much more than most parents may have assumed.

## Army officer who launched a legend

The cult of the Volkswagen Beetle might never have developed had it not been for British engineers, Kevin Eason reports

WHEN Major Ivan Hirst picked his way through the ashes of the factory built to assemble Hitler's "people's car", he had no idea he was about to take part in the making of a legend.

Major Hirst, a young officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was sent to Wolfsburg in August 1945 to build the car personally approved by the Führer but which did not have the chance to reach the production lines because of the outbreak of war.

He led a small British team that reorganised the factory's workforce and put the car, called the Volkswagen and later to be known as the Beetle, back onto the assembly lines. Forty-seven

sign languished while the Wolfsburg factory rebuilt aircraft and made heating stoves for the Russian front during the war.

The car had been seen by British officers at the 1938 Berlin Motor Show and the post-war military government decided to restart the Volkswagen project. Major Hirst was running the central tank depot in Belgium when he transferred to Wolfsburg to discover a factory almost demolished by British and American bombers. The team first decided what equipment could be salvaged.

Now aged 75 and living in West Yorkshire, Major Hirst remembered his first coup in finding a prototype, painting it dark green and sending it to the British occupying forces to test. They ordered 20,000. Orders followed from the Americans and French and by March 1946, the factory was making 1,000 cars a month. "It seemed a good little car," Major Hirst said. "I first saw one in 1944 and we stripped it down to have a look. I thought it had a chance."

The hunched body, which gave rise to the Beetle nickname, and the car's simplicity and reliability caught not only the imagination but eased the worries of drivers more used to cars which spent more time broken down in laybys than on the road. More than 424,000 were sold in Britain, one of 140 countries importing it.

By the 1960s, the Beetle had achieved cult status. It was decorated with floral designs by hippies and turned into a convertible by the smart set. It earned such devotion that Jonathan Bennett, a Volkswagen fanatic from Weymouth, Dorset, changed his name to Mr Volkswagen Beetle.

There are businesses such as Oceanair of Highgate, north London, still importing Beetles, not only for enthusiasts but for drivers looking for a model different from the current "jelly mould" designs.



Hirst thought the early design "had a chance"

years later, the company has just made the 21 millionth Beetle, a record number for a single model.

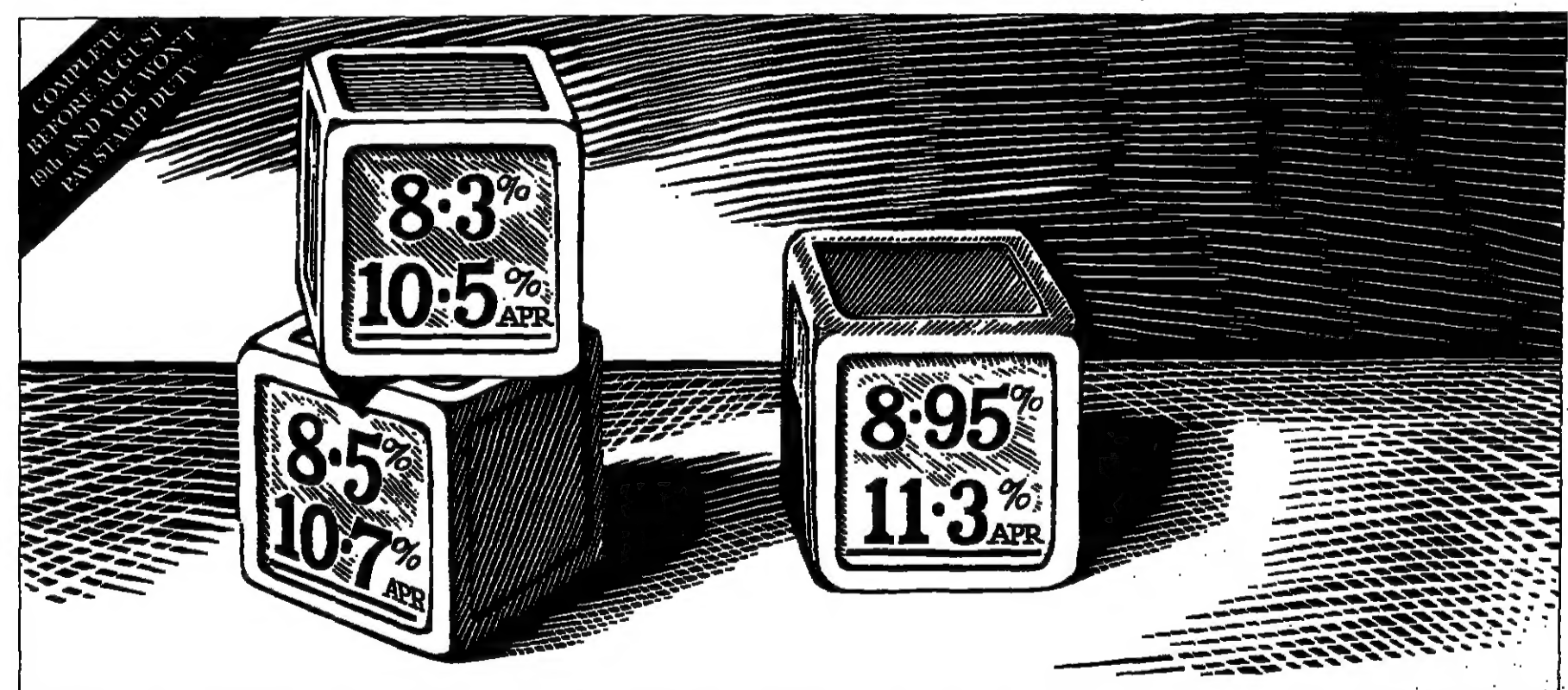
The Beetle has refused to die, although Volkswagen stopped producing it in Germany in 1978. Assembly was transferred to Mexico, after President Salinas asked Volkswagen to make a people's car for his country. The Beetle continues to pour off assembly lines at the rate of 450 a day, with many finding their way back to Europe where enthusiasts queue up in their thousands for what is more a cult than a means of transport.

The Beetle was designed by Dr Ferdinand Porsche, who gave Hitler a test drive in 1938. The Führer was so impressed that he proclaimed it to be the people's car. However, the Beetle de-



Beetle drive: Mexico fetes the 21 millionth car

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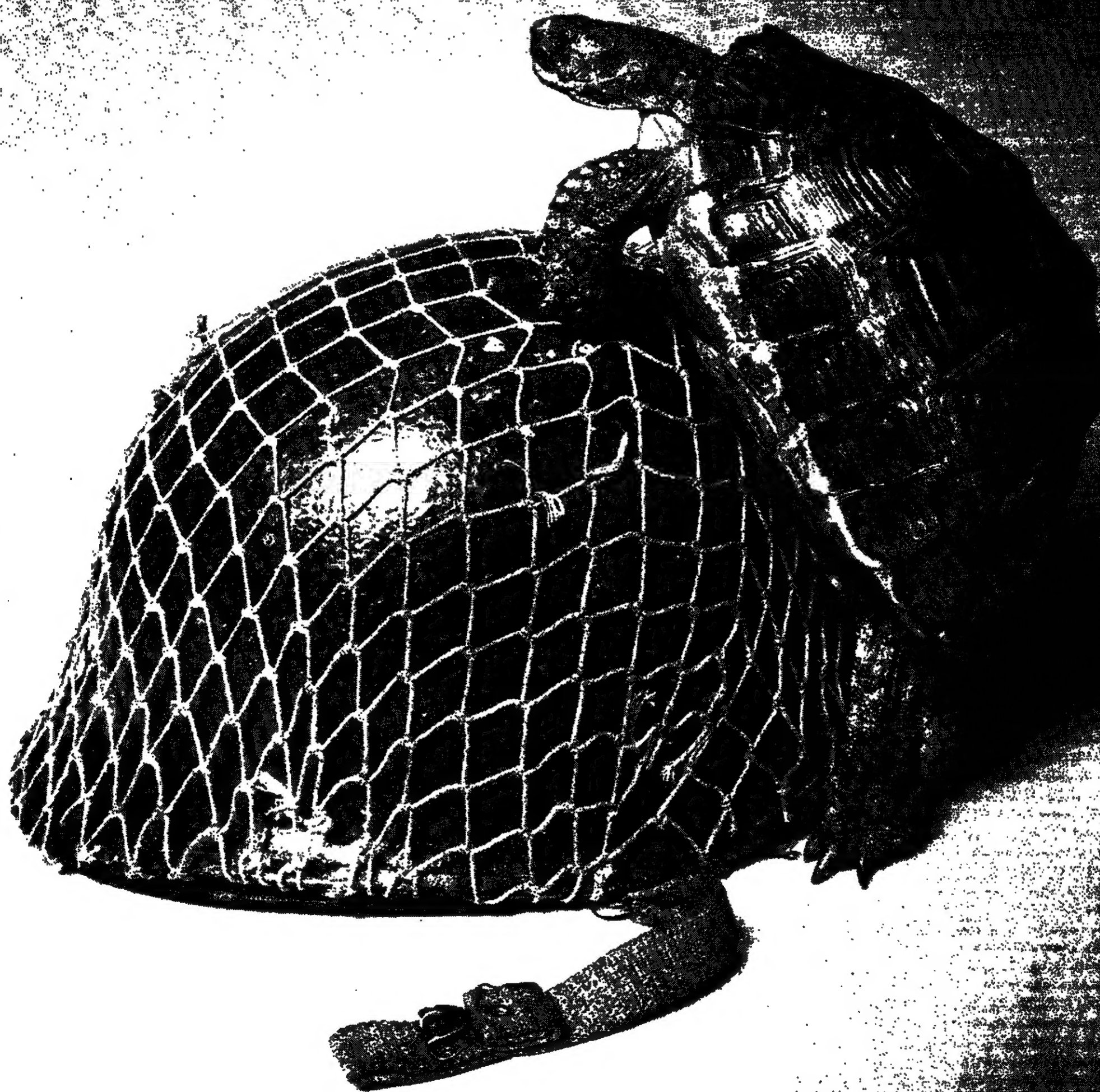
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

POLITICS &amp; GOVERNMENT 9

## Blundering attempt to gag Winterton imperils more Tories

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of a rule, devised by Conservative whips to gag a maverick MP, continued to backfire yesterday as the fate of a further tranche of senior Tory MPs on Commons select committees was thrown into doubt.

In the latest twist to the great Westminster conspiracy, which now bears all the hallmarks of a "cock-up", the resignations of Patrick Cormack, Robert Adley and Barry Porter from Commons committees were demanded because they breached the "new blood" rule stating that no Tory MP should serve on a committee for more than three parliaments.

MPs fear that exposing the extent to which committees are manipulated by the Tory whips has cast a cloud over the independence of the select committee system, created in 1979 to keep a check on government departments. In addition, the Tory whips face the unpleasant prospect of a growing number of present and former committee MPs aggrieved about their treatment, simmering on the back benches when the government's majority is only 21.

The state of barely subdued fury on the back benches will become clear on Monday night when the Commons debates the nominations.

The new, unwritten rule to bar long-serving committee members was used by the whips, and accepted by the

committee of selection this week, to block the re-election of Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, to the health committee, which he chaired in the last Parliament. His parliamentary "sin" was to criticise the government's health reforms and to occasionally disobey the "whip". Peter Fry, Sir Ivan Lawrence, Terence Higgins and Harry Greenway, whose loyalty was not questioned, fell victim to the rule. Mr Higgins went of his own accord; the others did not.

Labour whips have not used the same device. The original Commons procedure committee report in 1977 envisaged the committee system as providing an "alternative career structure" for backbenchers who did not want to climb the ministerial ladder. No mention was made of a bar on long-serving members.

The Tory whips failed to check other MPs caught by the rule. On Thursday night, they had to "persuade" Sir John Wheeler, former chairman of the home affairs committee, to resign.

In a Commons motion yesterday, Mr Winterton, backed by the Labour MPs Frank Field and Audrey Wise, listed other MPs who have been nominated to committees but were missed by the whips. Apart from six long-serving Labour MPs, it also mentions Messrs Cor-

mack, Porter and Adley. The saga is making and breaking a score of political reputations. The cast of characters is headed by:

□ Nicholas Winterton, whose support for government policy is increasingly shaky. He has taken on the unlikely mantle of doughty champion of the backbenchers and protector of the independence of the select committee system from government interference.

□ David Heathcoat-Amory, the unfortunate deputy chief whip charged with handling the nominations. He is being portrayed not only as a sinister figure, shuffling the committee places behind-the-scenes, but also as something less than competent for failing to check which other Tory MPs would be caught by the new three-parliament rule.

If the Tory whips had engineered the nominations to cause the maximum unrest among their MPs, they could scarcely have done better.



Little John to the rescue: John Gummer, the agriculture minister, joins members of the local archery club in Sherwood forest. He aims to restore Robin Hood's legendary haunt to its ancient splendour

## Sherwood going back to nature

BY JOHN YOUNG

PLANS to restore Sherwood forest, indelibly linked with the legend of Robin Hood, to something near its ancient splendour were announced yesterday by John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

Although Sherwood is one of the few survivors of the great lowland forest that once covered most of England, little remains of the ancient forest and Sherwood is subject to intense public pressure, with great tracts cleared for agriculture, housing, mining and industrial development.

In a written reply to a Parliamentary question, Mr Gummer said Sherwood forest was famous throughout the world and one of Britain's best-known tourist destinations. "The government believes that the time is now right for a programme of work to improve, and perhaps recreate, the Sherwood forest of old," he said. He had asked the Forestry Commission to redesign its 4,000 hectare holding to make it more attractive and restore some of the original heathland. The long term aim would be to revive native mixed woodlands.

## MPs rebel against pegged allowance

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A POSSIBLE rebellion against the government move to limit the increase in MPs' allowances to 9.8 per cent was gaining ground last night as Labour and the Liberal Democrats put their names to an amendment overturning the prime minister's decision.

The amendment, tabled by Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, calls for the review body's recommendations to be implemented. They would have given MPs up to a 40 per cent rise in their office allowances.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark

and Bermondsey, and Alex Carlile, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, have signed the amendment.

Although MPs are to be given a free vote next Tuesday when the government motion goes before the House, most if not all Labour MPs and Liberal Democrats are expected to vote for the amendment. Whips for both parties were last night hunting out Tory rebels to sign up so they could put forward a cross party amendment.

Conservative MPs who in the past have spoken out in favour of big increases in MPs' office allowances were reticent about showing their hand last night. Mr Smith said, however, that a number of Tories had indicated to him that they would rebel on Tuesday.

It is understood that new MPs of all parties are particularly concerned about the decision to slash the review body's recommendation. The report's proposal for a one off capital sum of £5,000 to help MPs to buy computer equipment, which the government rejected, had been eagerly expected by the new intake.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat MP who defeated Chris Patten in Bath, yesterday complained that the decision penalised new MPs who had to take on new staff at higher rates and buy expensive equipment. "It is ridiculous to expect MPs to be able to do their jobs properly, representing their constituency unless they were given the right resources," he said.

"Without realistic increases in office cost allowances, the only Members of Parliament able to work properly would be those with a private income or a second job."

The review body report proposed raising the maximum allowance from £28,986 to between £37,360 and £42,360, an increase of between 23 and 40 per cent. The prime minister restricted the rise to a maximum of £33,190.

## Labour protests over civil list accounts

BY SHEILA GUNN

LABOUR MPs reacted angrily yesterday to their discovery that neither the parliamentary financial watchdog nor Sir John Bourn, the auditor general, will be allowed to examine accounts of money paid to the royal family to carry out public duties.

The Commons public accounts committee has been told its members have no right to enquire into the accounts for the civil list until 2000. Sir John has no statutory power to call in the accounts for examination. Government sources insist

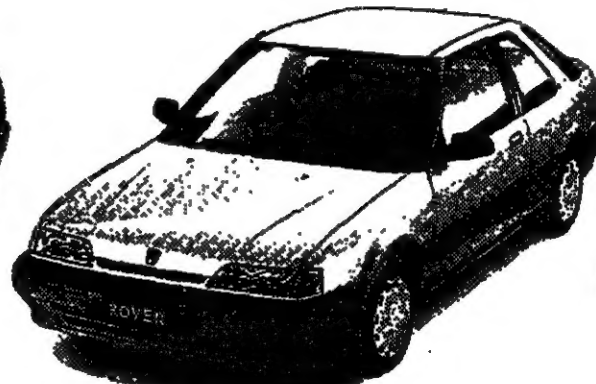
there is an agreement, approved by MPs in 1990, to look at the civil list accounts, totalling £9 million a year, every ten years. The accounts are audited every year by a Treasury team. Under the deal, the royal family receives an annual rise of 7.5 per cent until the year 2000.

Terry Davis, a Labour member of the committee, predicted an "almighty row" on Monday. Bob Croy, MP for Bradford South, said: "It is a public outrage that effectively parliament has been denied the right to scrutinise the civil list."

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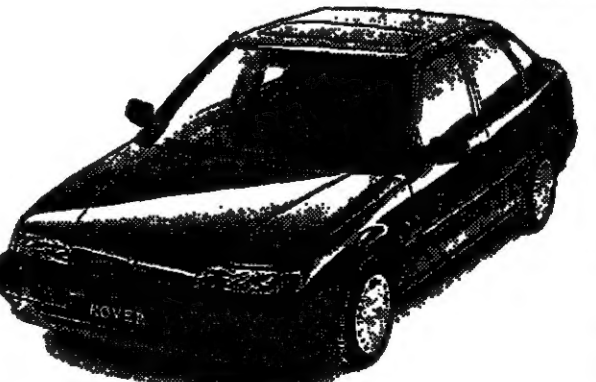
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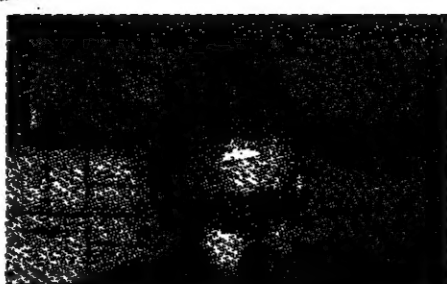
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The Times finds that some coastal pollution is nothing more than seaweed and shifting sand

## Britain fights for impartial testing of beach quality

By Nicholas Watt

THE government is to fight for a fairer deal for Britain's beaches after angry complaints about an EC report that says 166 UK beaches fail to comply with Community standards.

Enquiries by *The Times* have shown that some black-listed beaches are polluted by nothing more than seaweed and shifting sand.

The depth of the division between Britain and Brussels will be shown today when a Tidy Britain flag is hoisted on Blackpool Sands, South Hams, Devon — one of the beaches marked out as a failure by the EC in its survey *Quality of Bathing 1991*. Bournemouth was astonished to find that two of its beaches are blacklisted and has joined South Hams in protesting against the unfairness of the system.

An environment department spokesman said yesterday: "One of the priorities of our EC presidency is to set up an inspectorate of inspectors. In some countries the local authority or water company carry out the tests. They obviously want to ensure a good result. In Greece they don't carry out tests on rainy days when there is a lot of sewage outflow. In Britain the tests are carried out by the independent National Rivers Authority whatever the weather. An inspectorate would ensure that the tests are on a level playing field."

For *Quality of Bathing 1991*, water was tested in two ways: first for microbiological parameters, which checks for faecal coliforms; and secondly for physico-chemical parameters, including tests for transparency and colour. Bournemouth and Blackpool Sands passed all the tests except the controversial ones for colour and "surface active substances", which are basically foam.

The environment department

spokeswoman said: "Water is sometimes coloured because it is disturbed by tides. Mediterranean countries do not have this problem. It is dreadful that a beach should be condemned as polluted when it is not a danger and fails just for aesthetic reasons. The only way that some beaches could pass the EC test would be to put cling film on the beach to stop the sand being disturbed."

South Hams District Council in Devon, which today unfurls its Premier Beach Award at Blackpool Sands, reacted angrily to the EC findings. The beach failed a mere three tests out of a total of 103 in the colour and surface substance categories.

Frank Palmer, the council's chief executive, said: "The EC has taken these tests out of context. The beach is one of the cleanest in Britain. If we get a southeasterly gale, seaweed washes onto the beach and there is nothing we can do about that."

The water at Bournemouth Pier is also condemned in the EC report even though it failed only seven out of 108 tests. Bournemouth's Hengistbury East beach failed nine out of 100 tests. None of the failures was caused by man-made pollution. Kenneth Male, director of tourism and publicity, said: "We are never complacent about standards. The Marine Conservation Society refers to us as good boys."

The National Rivers Authority conducts the tests throughout the summer. Beaches must pass 95 per cent of microbiological tests. The environment department said that Britain was far more rigorous than some EC countries which did not bother with half their tests. Britain comes top of the list for the amount of designated beaches it tests with a figure of 100 per cent.



Flying the flag: seaside supporters pay their tribute to the award-winning Blackpool Sands beach in Devon

### THE TIMES GUIDE TO BLACKSPOT BEACHES

Beaches not complying with EC pollution standards

Certain beaches in or near the following places fail to comply with EC pollution standards

#### GERMANY

**SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN**  
Kampen, Wannigstede, Westerland, Rantum, Hornum, West, Wismar, Friesendell, Böhm, Lindewitz, Jarmund, Nevel, Idstedt, Lürschau, Jübek, Sörup, Koser, Wulfstede, Hohenhude, Wrohe, Enkendorf, Borgdorf, Langwedel, Bordesheim, Mühlbrook, Krogstede, Padenset, Schacht, Audorf

**MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN**  
Pugstien, Brege, Glowe, Lützow, Putbus, Sellin, Midselungen, Gager, Thiesow, Gohren, Zuder, Dranske, Ralswiek, Friesen, Wismar, Lütow, Lohs, Gahkow, Lubmin, Kröslin, Lütow, Ralswiek, Karshagen, Trassenheide, Benzin, Kamminke, Grahkow, Warnemünde

**LOWER SAXONY**  
Wangerland, Langeoog, Esens, Krummhörn



#### DENMARK

Skagen, Sæby, Grenes, Arhus, Horsens, Vejle, Sydangeland, Aarslev, Gudme, Kerteminde, Rødekro.

Source: European Commission

## Legacy of reckless dumping

WITH only the cold North Sea and remote Baltic beaches for sea bathing, Germans who like to swim prefer either to go abroad or to use the country's many lakes.

Germany is having to cope with the consequences of decades of reckless dumping of waste in the rivers and lakes of east Germany. The Elbe, which formed the border between the two Germanies, joins the sea at Hamburg but by then it is full of industrial filth. Chemical pollution levels in lakes and rivers rise when there is heavy rain because poisons are washed out of the soil.

Germany's federal system causes an imbalance in the way information is reported. Each of the different Länder (states) is responsible for gathering data and for forwarding it to the EC. Bavaria, however, did not send in reports. Only three states gave information about guide values to the European Commission so it was impossible to make any assessment of compliance. Eastern German

Cold northern seas drive German swimmers abroad or inland to bathe in lakes and rivers, Ian Murray writes

states are still exempt from applying Community directives. But Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which hopes its lovely but empty white beaches on the Baltic will become a profitable tourist attraction, did monitor 375 bathing areas which proved to be cleaner than average.

The 1990 report showed that 77 per cent of German beaches were within the compliance rate, compared with 64 per cent in 1991. The report says that the decline was probably due to exceptional weather. Germany's environment ministry is not worried. A spokesman said: "Generally our water is very good for bathing."

Denmark imposes stricter standards on environmental protection than other Euro-

pean Community member states and bathing is forbidden on only about 10 miles of the country's 3,125 miles of coast suitable for swimming (Christopher Follet writes from Copenhagen).

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency sets three categories of bathing water quality: fine, doubtful and prohibited. This year 28 beaches have been closed to swimmers, compared to 38 last year, while 54 are rated doubtful compared to 68.

Safe, with only a few doubtful enclaves, are the fashionable beaches between Copenhagen and Elsinore and the string of sandy beaches along North Zealand's beautiful north coast. The long, wide, unbroken beaches stretching along Jutland's windswept North Sea coast, with sand dunes and sweeping silver-white expanses of sand spiked with marram grass — packed with German and Danish visitors in the hottest summer since 1874 — are given a largely clean bill.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### Teenager held after fatal crash

A teenager accused of causing death by dangerous driving was remanded in custody at Oxford magistrates' court yesterday.

Steven Reynolds, 19, of Cowley, Oxford, is thought to be one of the first people charged with the new offence under the Road Traffic Act, which came into force on July 1. It carries a maximum penalty of five years in jail and replaces the offence of causing death by reckless driving.

Ivor James, 83, who was partially blind, died on Sunday, three days after the incident, which happened as he was walking in Oxford.

### Arms sentence

Robert Black, a former steelworker, was jailed for four years yesterday after detectives found 56lb of high explosives and arms at his home in Airdrie, Strathclyde. Black, 29, had links with the Protestant Apprentice Boys of Londonderry, the High Court in Edinburgh was told.

### Bomber jailed

Faruk Topal, 36, of east London, a Kurdish political refugee who admitted throwing a Molotov cocktail into a crowded concourse at Heathrow airport on March 13, was jailed for five years by Isleworth Crown Court.

### Victim named

Clive Lamborne, 36, a father of two and a Gulf war veteran, was named yesterday as the second crew member who died when an RAF Buccaneer jet crashed into the North Sea on Thursday.

### Lakeland limit

A 10mph speed limit proposal for Windermere was published by the Lake District special planning board. Objectors have one month to oppose the bylaw amendment.

### Loud and clear

Swansea council has fitted its 24-ton dusters with bilingual audio messages, "Warning — vehicle reversing", in English and Welsh.

## European tide sweeps into British courts

A rash of judgments from Luxembourg is a sign of the growing power of the European Court, Frances Gibb writes

THE European Court of Justice will rule next week on whether the government's failure to allow a mother to deduct child-care costs from her part-time earnings was indirect sex discrimination and a breach of European Community law.

The ruling in the case of Patricia Cresswell, of Exeter, backed by the Child Poverty Action Group, is the latest of a series of judgments from the Luxembourg-based court with far-reaching implications for United Kingdom law. This week, the court dealt blows to the publishers' net book agreement, to the powers of immigration authorities and to the Sunday trading lobby.

The latest run of cases is a by-product of the court's clearing its decks before the summer recess rather than a sign of particular interest in Britain. Nonetheless, British cases referred to Luxembourg are increasing.

Despite its huge influence, little is known in Britain about the court, which is often confused with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Only recently has its real impact in shaping European Community regulations begun to be appreciated.

The atmosphere of the court, in its modern-style building, is continental. The main difference for British lawyers is the absence of oral argument: speeches, which dominate British court proceedings, are limited to half an hour. In a full court hearing, there is a judge from each country, and an advocate general. They wear gowns (but no wigs) and counsel wear the robes of their own countries. There are simultaneous translation facilities. Only one judgment is given from the bench, instead of one from each judge, as in Britain.

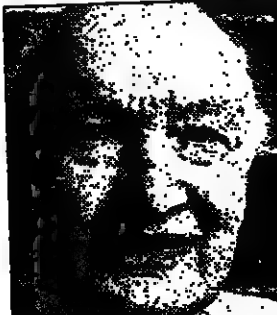
The case that first brought home to many people the existence of a court which could transcend the British legal system was that of Factortame, which involved a challenge by Spanish fishermen to the government's attempts to prevent them

from fishing in British waters. The ruling that part of an act of Parliament could be suspended until its compatibility with EC law had been tested brought an outcry, with Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, saying that the Treaty of Rome was like an incoming tide: "It flows into the estuaries and up the rivers. It cannot be held back."

The court does not simply issue dicta. Much of its work derives from requests by courts in member states for an interpretation of EC law: the House of Lords, for example, had referred the Sunday trading question in this way. The other half of its work is direct actions, in which the Commission has brought an action against a member state, or an action brought against the Commission. Member states, individuals and companies look to the court to check the power of Brussels.

In 1989, the court had 600 pending cases after handing down 238 judgments the year before. The huge growth in workload brought about the creation of a new Court of First Instance in 1989, establishing a two-tier system. This deals chiefly with competition cases and disputes between the Commission and its staff.

That court has eased some of the pressure: a reference from a national court for a



Denning: led outcry against fishing ruling

ruling takes on average 18 months and direct action cases between 22 and 24 months. But the growing workload remains.

As more countries join the Community, more actions will be brought for non-compliance with directives. Figures from the Commission in April showed that a record number of rulings are not being complied with: 105 court judgments had yet to be implemented, compared with 83 the year before.

One reason for the delay in implementing rulings is inadequate sanctions. However, a recent landmark case, Francovich, held that EC citizens have a right to compensation if they suffer as a result of their government's failure to comply with EC legal obligations. Under the Maastricht treaty, the court will also be able to fine governments that fail to comply.

Maastricht, if implemented, may have a far wider effect than increasing the court's powers. Peter Duffy, a barrister and EC law specialist, said that it would bring new areas of work within the scope of EC law, expanding the court's brief in fields such as consumer protection and environmental policy. The court might also find itself involved in areas that the treaty did not intend for it. Third, amid debate about the meaning of the Maastricht principle of "subsidiarity", the court was likely to be called on to decide whether an issue should be dealt with at Community level, Mr Duffy said.

But David Vaughan, QC, another EC specialist, said: "I don't honestly think Maastricht will make much difference. In some respects it may reduce the court's work, in that Maastricht contains a protocol on pensions, for instance, which might reduce some of the cases going to Europe on the retroactive aspects of the Barber [pensions] case."

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**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



# Rabin to control foreign policy in coalition cabinet

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, Israel's prime minister in waiting, yesterday officially informed President Herzog that he will have a working coalition government in place when the Knesset reopens on Monday.

After two weeks of intense negotiations with smaller religious, right-wing and left-wing parties, the Labour party leader has passed his first test by putting together a majority in the 120-seat parliament. The new government, in which Labour will have 44 seats, the left-wing Meretz party 12 and the ultra-orthodox Sephardi Jewish party Shas six, gives Mr Rabin a wafer-thin majority of four, boosted by the tacit sup-

port of five Israeli Arab parliamentarians.

By the standards of the notoriously tortuous and prolonged process of Israeli coalition building, Mr Rabin can claim rightly that he has succeeded in putting together a working government in a short period. Certainly it will enable him to install himself in the prime minister's office and set about planning what is likely to be a hectic summer of diplomatic contacts leading to a meeting with President Bush and the resumption of Middle East peace talks in Rome.

However, Mr Rabin has been forced to part with key ministerial portfolios. Arye

Deri, the Shas leader, who set off yesterday for his native Morocco for talks with King Hassan, will remain interior minister. Shulamit Aloni, the Meretz leader, becomes education minister while her colleagues Amnon Rubinstein and Yair Tsaaban have been appointed energy and immigrant absorption ministers respectively.

Other portfolios will be decided tomorrow when Labour heads meet in Tel Aviv to decide who will be rewarded after the party's election victory last month. But Mr Rabin is likely to keep a firm personal hold on key aspects of his new government, particularly the course of the Middle East peace process.

For instance, the tough former general has made it clear that he, and not the future foreign minister, will decide all foreign policy matters concerning negotiations with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbours. He may also decide to keep the defence portfolio for himself.

Mr Rabin, whose flexible position at the negotiating table is tempered by a fear-some reputation as defence minister and former chief of staff, has also made it clear that he intends to broaden his leftist coalition and hopes to attract other partners.

In particular, he has made it known he still wants to include the right-wing Tsomet party, which won eight seats in the election, even though his talks yesterday with Rafael Eitan, the party's leader, ended inconclusively. The other likely ally is the ultra-Orthodox United Torah party with four Knesset seats.

"For now we are satisfied with the government, but we are keeping our doors open to any other interested parties who could join now or after the Knesset opens," said one senior Labour party official.

Labour's eagerness for additional coalition partners is two-fold. First, Mr Rabin wants a large majority in the Knesset to give as broad a mandate as possible for his ambitious proposals at the Middle East negotiating table, where he intends to offer Palestinians the right to hold elections and the opportunity for self rule.

More important, the Labour leader, 70, needs to ensure that he has enough parties in his government so that he cannot be blackmailed by any one coalition faction, a threat which he faces with his narrow majority. With a mixture of religious, leftist and right-wing partners, Mr Rabin believes he will be able successfully to divide and rule his coalition for the duration of his four-year term.

The formation of the new government yesterday, coincided with deepening divisions within the Palestinian community, where mediators attempted to halt a week of inter-communal fighting in the Gaza Strip. Scores of people have been injured in clashes between supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, which broadly supports the peace talks, and hardline fundamentalists.

● **Settlement stopped:** Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem, has forced the indefinite postponement of plans by Ariel Sharon, the former hardline housing minister, to construct hundreds of Jewish homes in two Arab areas of the city. (AFP)

## Patten takes look at the vice district

Joanna Pitman joins Chris Patten on a walkabout among prostitutes and duckskins, the mahjong and massage parlours, in Hong Kong's heat

CHRIS Patten will not have to diet if he carries on at this rate. Hong Kong's new governor must have shed several unwanted pounds during his first day on the job yesterday, when he gamely went on a walkabout in Mong Kok district, the vice district and the most densely populated spot on Earth, where every square mile is home to more than 140,000 people.

It felt as if every one had turned out to gawp at the governor, whose large pale face, gleaming with sweat, was barely discernible amid the throng. Panting in the soupy heat and shepherded by security guards, Mr Patten forged out among the press of wildly bobbing faces, the supplicants, the demonstrators and the merely curious. He shook hundreds of hands, hugged a baby, sipped herbal teas and even took a ride on the subway train.

Up and down the dark alleyways and shabby market streets he went, taking in the reeking flavours and garish colours of his new domain. He saw festering open drains, street hawkers selling sizzling duckskins, and stalls piled high with mountains of fresh-coloured bra cups and draped with the tangled tentacles of black suspender belts.

Shoddy grey tenement buildings towered overhead, sprouting grimy laundry lines, plants, dripping woks and other kitchen paraphernalia from their windows so that they almost meshed together high above the thoroughway and the heads of the crawling masses.

Many of Mong Kok's "chickens" (prostitutes) were just getting up as Mr Patten toured the district, repainting their faces and squeezing into sequined latex tubes for another 12-hour night shift in Mong Kok's brothels and massage parlours.

Two months ago a double murder and shoot-out took place in one of Mong Kok's mahjong parlours. The district's crime rate is one of the highest in Hong Kong and vice squads and anti-Triad officers mount an average of 1,000 raids every month.

Passing a multitude of lesser inns, saunas and houses of disrepute, Mr Patten may not have noticed a curious estab-

lishment nesting behind a fake Rolex stall called, according to loose translation, "The Falsie Joint". Concerned neither with breasts nor with eyelashes, this was the practice of one of Hong Kong's hundreds of unqualified dentists. The Falsie Joint was closed for the day, its proprietor probably out offering his best gold-toothed grin for the new governor.

In the heaving throng a few frail men, thin as chopsticks, laboured under poles laden with baskets, plastic bags and parcels tied with string. Lanky giggling youths, lithe as whips, leapt up and down from lampposts to catch a glimpse of the procession. Everywhere Mr Patten ventured, there followed a



Patten: met hawkers and gamblers in alleys

stampede of sweating journalists and television crews.

The morning had been rather more congenial for the press, invited to meet the governor on the manicured lawns of Government House, to record a genteel scene reminiscent of President Bush holding forth in the rose garden of the White House.

Mr Patten spoke of the need for more open and accessible government, and the possibility of instituting a regular question-time session in the legislative council. He clearly wants to be seen as a man of the people, prepared just as much to jostle among street hawkers, gamblers and prostitutes as he is to respond to the queries of his elected councillors.

Having set himself a formidable schedule, he has begun at a cracking pace. He will be a tough man if he keeps it up for five years.



Mud lark: Matthew Campbell of Black Diamond, Alberta, grins after competing in the wild-horse race at the Calgary Stampede. He didn't win, but he enjoyed it as rain turned the arena into a quagmire

## UN holds little for De Klerk

FROM MICHAEL HAMELYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African press pointed out yesterday that when the UN Security Council discusses South Africa next week the focus of attention will not be on the absence of contact between the two sides, but on the real obstacle to progress, the appalling and largely unchecked violence in the black townships.

There is likely to be little to comfort President De Klerk in New York, even though R.F. "Pik" Botha, his foreign minister, will urge the resumption of talks and blame the ANC for its intransigence.

Sensing this, *The Citizen*, a Johannesburg morning newspaper, sees the UN "no doubt trying to control the transition to a new South Africa, supervise the election of a constituent assembly and send a peacekeeping force here". They proclaim: "The government will give in to this at its peril—for if the UN can get its foot in here, the chances of a fair election for a constituent assembly and peaceful transition to a new South Africa will be virtually nil."

Nearer the other side of the political fence, *Business Day* welcomes the suggestion made in the latest ANC memorandum that President De Klerk should personally take over responsibility for the cabinet portfolios of defence and law and order.

The ANC memorandum firmly blames the government for its complicity in the violence and says it had refused to act against members of the security forces, who it claimed had been outside its authority.

The ANC's latest document lists, under six headings, what it says is evidence supporting its allegations.

## Clinton and Gore promise to change US in 100 days

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE first Clinton-Gore campaign banner with a promise to bring "change" to America within 100 days of a Democratic victory.

Bill Clinton opened a joint press conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, with a directive that Senator Al Gore, his choice for vice-president, should lead the 100-day battle to break "the logjam in Washington". The announcement was a clear attempt to recall the most active moments of the Democratic past—the 100 days of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy.

Its emphasis on partnership also, however, recalled the failed attempts of President Carter to turn the vice-presidency into a real job for Walter Mondale.

The first session of question-and-answer with the press was dominated by arguments about why Governor

Clinton had chosen Senator Gore, a fellow Southerner in his mid-forties, for the job of helping him win the White House. The reply was a constant repetition of the word "change" and a determined attempt to show that an experienced Washington politician like Mr Gore could achieve what an outsider like Ross Perot could not.

Governor Clinton said his running mate had "paid the price of time" in studying complex issues and, although some Washington Democrats were "part of the paralysis", Senator Gore was not.

Governor Clinton also attempted to use his new partner to counter Republican claims to be the party of "family values". He said that it was not enough to be in favour of strong families.

It was necessary also to act. He and Senator Gore, Governor Clinton said, offered "family values plus" while

their opponents offered "family values minus".

The two Democrats faced tough questioning about whether their shared white Southern background meant that they were taking the ethnic Democrat vote for granted. Mr Clinton promised a "vigorous campaign for the minority vote".

The White House yesterday mocked the Democrat claims to represent the "new generation". Echoing soft-drink advertisements aimed at the young, Martin Fitzwater said that "they have the Pepsi boys and we have the real thing".

The press reception for the Democratic ticket was favourable—but chiefly where one would expect it to be so. *The Washington Post* praised Senator Gore's presidential mettle over that of Dan Quayle and called the selection "a good choice".

Young pretender, page 16



On the ticket: Hillary Clinton, right, and Tipper Gore, wives of the Democrats' running mates in the presidential election, accepting bouquets in Little Rock

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Woman takes over in Poland

Warsaw: The Polish parliament yesterday confirmed the lawyer, Hanna Suchocka, as prime minister, replacing Waldemar Pawlak, after she succeeded in forming a ruling coalition of seven post-Solidarity political parties (Patricia Kora writes).

On a 233-61 vote with 113 abstentions, the lower house, or Sejm, confirmed President Walesa's nomination of Miss Suchocka, 46. She will lead a slim government coalition of seven parties with Solidarity roots that command 237 votes in the 460-vote parliament. That gives her an initial advantage over her predecessor, who was unable to form a government, and over the former prime minister, Jan Olszewski, who governed for five months with a minority coalition.

### Split policy

Prague: Czechoslovakia's federal government presented to parliament its draft policy statement on partition into two independent states. The Czech and Slovak National Councils will negotiate by the end of September how the split is to be handled. (Reuters)

### Ties proposed

Tokyo: A Japanese report has proposed establishing a forum for economic co-operation between Japan, north-east China, the Koreans and the Russian Far East, saying Japan could offer know-how and markets while other areas provided resources. (AFP)

### Law approved

Bonn: The German parliament has approved a law allowing abortion throughout the country, ending a legal and political dilemma resulting from unification. The bill, already passed by the lower house, has now been agreed to by the upper house. (AFP)

### Democracy aid

Brussels: The European Commission has established a £3.5-million fund to help human rights organisations like Amnesty International and the London-based Minority Rights Group set up trade unions and democratic bodies in eastern Europe.

### Health cover

Moscow: The government is to issue all Russians with vouchers to cover basic health care, education and pension contributions. People will be able to top up the vouchers to buy better services. Yevgeni Yasin, senior economic adviser to the government, said.

### Arms delivered

Bucharest: Romania confirmed a report that it had delivered 2,000 automatic weapons, several armoured patrol cars and artillery pieces to neighbouring Moldova to help the former Soviet republic create its own armed forces. (Reuters)

### Peace offered

Manila: President Ramos offered peace to army rebels and communist guerrillas in the Philippines and said he would consider releasing soldiers jailed for coup attempts. He also ordered the sacking of soldiers guilty of corruption. (Reuters)

### Dare to bare

Waterloo, Canada: Canadian women are being urged by a topless crusader to bare their breasts in public next weekend. A special rally at a Waterloo park is planned to see whether police arrest only topless women while ignoring bare-chested men. (AFP)

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## Family debate fired as boy seeks 'divorce' from parents

An 11-year-old American boy is attempting to "divorce" his mother and father after a court in Florida ruled that children are legally entitled to sue for separation from parents who abuse or neglect them.

The boy, for legal reasons identified only as Gregory K, has taken his parents to court seeking the "termination of the parent/child relationship" on the grounds that he has been neglected and abandoned. He now wants to be adopted by the foster parents he has lived with for the last nine months.

Gregory's natural father, Ralph K, is not contesting the case, but his 30-year-old mother, Rachel, says she now wants her son back. She argues that poverty forced her to surrender him and two other children to

An 11-year-old boy will use the courts to challenge his parents' right to custody. Ben Macintyre writes

foster families, but only on the understanding that she could eventually regain custody.

Her lawyers had contested that Gregory, as a minor, cannot sue on his own behalf, but a Florida judge ruled last Thursday that the boy has the same constitutional right as any adult "to protect his fundamental interests". The child, who has spent most of his life moving from place to place in the custody of the state, his father or various foster parents, is accusing his mother of "mental and emotional abuse".

Rachel K and her lawyers

maintain that the child has neither the legal right nor the intellectual capacity to strip his mother of her parental rights. In an interview his mother pointed out that Gregory is not legally entitled either to drink or vote. "What makes him able, at barely half that age, to make a decision like this?" she asked.

Gregory's foster father, a wealthy lawyer, says that he and his wife have become the boy's "psychological parents" and that breaking these emotional ties would harm him further. Gregory's suit

describes his mother as "the victim of alcohol and drug abuse" and her new fiancé as a "live-in paramour" with convictions for armed robbery and drug possession.

Rachel K admits she has seen little of her son over the last 11 years, but argues that this was because the child's father ran away with him at the age of four. She says her son has been "dazed" by the wealth and luxury of his foster parents' lifestyle.

"His brothers go swimming at the public pool and Gregory goes swimming at the country club," she said. "Which would you rather do if you were 11 years old? ... I'm a good mother who's been dealt a crummy hand in life so far and is trying to turn that around."

While the decision to al-

low Gregory to sue his parents has been greeted with surprise and enthusiasm by children's rights activists, others fear the case will open the way for thousands of children to divorce their natural parents.

Legal guardians or other adults have hitherto represented children in cases where parents are held to be incapable or dangerous. The lawsuit brought by Gregory is unique because the child is representing his own views.

The case of Gregory K has attracted intense interest in America where "family values" have become a hotly debated political issue with both President Bush and Dan Quayle, the vice-president, campaigning vigorously as upholders of the traditional

family unit. Jane E. Carey, Rachel K's lawyer, has argued that allowing children to sue their parents for divorce will further damage the coherence of the American family and opens the way for children to be sued in turn by their parents or others. "This is a dangerous ruling," she said yesterday. "I think we have opened a Pandora's box, and I hope and pray we can close it before it's too late."

Gaining permission to bring the case does not guarantee that the boy's adoption request will go through. When the case is heard in circuit court in the autumn, his lawyers will be expected to produce "clear and convincing" proof that he suffered "abuse, abandonment and neglect" before Gregory finds, in his own words, "a place to be".



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# Left in limbo, Bratislava slides sadly from roués to ruins



Mečiar: slowing ordered in free market reforms

THE Carlton Hotel, which looks out on the Slovak National Theatre, has been one of the grand fixtures of Central Europe for two centuries. Now it is a crumbling ruin which, like Czechoslovakia itself, will close down this summer for repairs and may perhaps never open again.

Nothing conveys the sadness of rundown Slovakia better than this faded palace of a hotel. There are new hotels sprouting in Bratislava — the Forum and the Danube — with their slick coffee shops and unvisited fitness centres. But the Carlton is a classic victim of the age.

Once the haunt of Habsburgian roués — a good place for Viennese gentlemen to take their mistresses and play the tables — it was "standardised" under socialist rule. Today the telephone

The faded grandeur of the Carlton Hotel says much about a Slovakia that seems paralysed by the past and suspicious of the future. Roger Boyes writes from Bratislava

exchange is a creaking push button machine in a back room run by a jolly woman. Over her head there is a sign denoting the three best ways of losing money. The most pleasurable: women. The quickest: gambling. The most secure: computers.

But it remains a joke; it would be difficult to squander money in any of the recommended ways in today's Bratislava. Even the prostitutes that used to stand in hazy defile in the lobby have disappeared. There is little custom in a hotel with damp-stained carpets, doors that shriek on

their hinges, cracked wash basins in the corridor.

The gamblers have moved across the Hviezdoslavovo Square to the Park Casino frequented by young Viennese in dark glasses who are not after the thrill of roulette but rather a quick way to make their shillings cleaner. As for computers, there are a few around, but even in the flashy hotels they are surrounded by a gaggle of Slovaks saying: "Try this button! No, try that one!"

Bratislava was a fine, if crumbling city when the communists took over. Then came

the flyover, the motorway, the jerry-built hotels, the housing estate silos of Petralka, and suddenly there was little left. Slovak nationalism was regarded as an evil incubus, anything that predated 1945 was allowed to rot.

The Carlton, taken over by the state hotel chain, has been dying more softly, starved of intelligent investment. The maids' huge vacuum cleaner is covered with sticking plaster like a scrappy child. The lock breaks on one of the rooms and the janitor has to crawl along the window ledge to rescue the guest.

Another porter, scenting a tip, wakes from a deep slumber, tries to vault the reception counter, stumbles, twists his ankle and, grimacing, grabs the lightest piece of luggage of a stray Western guest. "The room," he gasps, turning on



the tap which gushes cold brown water.

There was nothing else to turn on — the 1950s radio can only whine, the shutters are stuck — so he gives a cheery wave and advises that the reception (four floors walk since the lift is out of order) should be able to find him if needed. At breakfast, paid for by a pink coupon printed in 1976, a Polish travelling salesman, (with a case full of

rights) offers to sell a ticket to a Boy George concert. The ticket is a week out of date.

The Slovak capital is well ahead of the rest of the republic. At least in Bratislava the shops are brightening up a little — Benetton, Austrian underwear boutiques — and the Old Town district is being slowly renewed. But they are like gold teeth in a decaying mouth. The market revolution is due to be slowed down by Vladimír Mečiar, the Slovak leader, yet it has not even started in central and eastern Slovakia, apart from higher prices and longer queue times.

Slovakia has become a limbo society, enjoying neither the benefits of a market economy nor of a communist one; neither democratic (witness the terror struck into Bratislavan journalists by Mr Mečiar) nor totalitarian.

Czech cynics say that the Slovaks are waiting to be colonised, perhaps by the Austrians again.

That is not fair. But there has been a social paralysis since the 1989 velvet revolution that does not properly prepare the country for independence. The city authorities, unable to cope with rising crime, have allowed three separate private police forces to guard the Slovak capital. The most noticeable are the so-called Black Sheriffs, New York cop lookalikes with black uniforms, Colt revolvers and swagger sticks, who clear small-time crooks from hotel lobbies.

The puzzle is how to move from a tired, stagnant society to independent statehood, without ending up as a poor, intolerant backwater forgotten by the world.

## Security in Europe

# Summit stumbles as it takes first peace step

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

THE Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was set up here yesterday as the body primarily responsible for security and stability in Europe and the new forum for East-West arms control talks. But it failed the first test of its new peacekeeping powers when the summit that ordained them was unable to agree on the terms for a mission of 100 unarmed observers to Nagorno-Karabakh, the disputed enclave in Azerbaijan.

It was the biggest summit ever to be held in Europe. Presidents and prime ministers from 29 states belonging to Nato and the former Soviet Union also signed an agreement to cut troop strengths in Europe and another for the provisional implementation of the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, signed in Paris in 1990. Full implementation

must await ratification by Belarus and Armenia.

The political declaration revives the 52-nation CSCE as a key decision-making body after years of quiescence. It provides for new peacekeeping mechanisms, and will concentrate especially on preventive diplomacy.

The CSCE is to be the authority to consider all threats to European security and authorise any appropriate military response by Nato, the Western European Union (WEU), the European Community or any other organisation. The declaration attempts to avoid duplication between existing organisations, and clarify the links and overlaps between them.

The first immediate test of this new principle was the authorisation of a joint Nato-WEU operation to enforce

United Nations sanctions against Serbia.

All speakers, including President Yeltsin, welcomed the new role for the conference. The Russian leader also called for the creation of a rapid reaction military force that could be used to contain ethnic conflicts in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

He warned delegates yesterday of the tide of aggressive nationalism that followed the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and said the new force, following the example of the UN, should be used "before the blood has begun to flow". Otherwise, he said, the explosion of ethnic and nationalist tensions could become "the real plague of the 21st century".

John Major said that the CSCE had to take on a new role as a firefighter. Its effectiveness depended largely on peer pressure, the moral and political force the majority could bring to bear on the minority.

Wars in the East and continuing disputes dominated the two-day summit. Most nations voiced strong support for the demand for a swift withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet army from their territory.

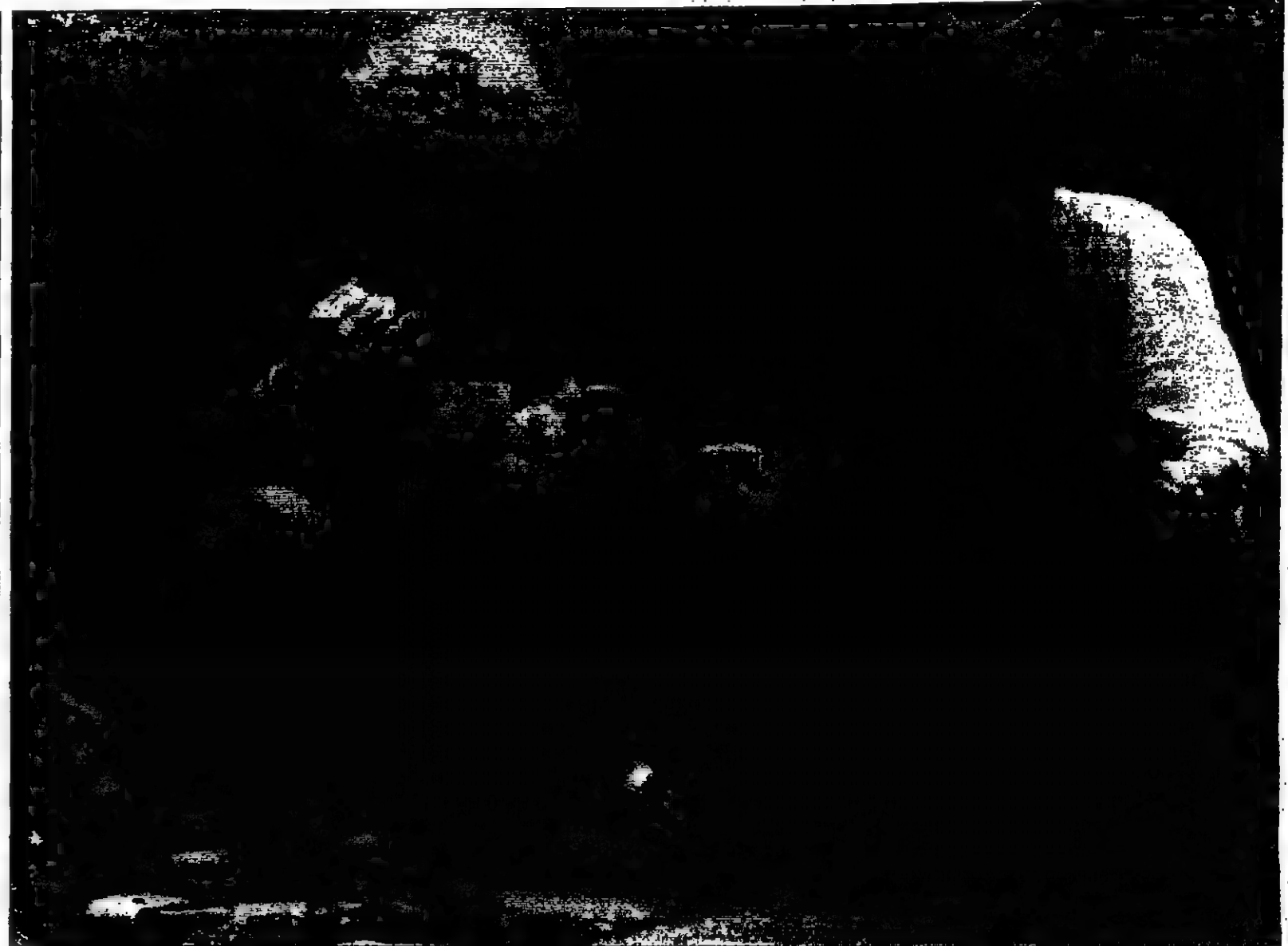
Mr Major said there had been good progress: the Russians had agreed at the summit that they would remove all their forces, but still had not set a time-scale. He called for continued pressure on Moscow over this.

The break-up of Czechoslovakia was also discussed by President Bush in talks with President Havel on Thursday and with Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, yesterday. Mr Bush strongly emphasised that any split in the federation must be peaceful and constitutional. Mr Antall assured him that there would be "no second Yugoslavia in Czechoslovakia".

With dozens of presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers in Helsinki, most leaders found time for bilateral talks, especially with Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister now heading the Georgian delegation. Mr Major and Mr Bush saw him.

Mr Major also had talks with President Kravchuk of Ukraine, and the prime ministers of Denmark, Finland and Sweden, three of the four countries applying for membership of the European Community for which the British EC presidency is to prepare the negotiations.

Naval operation, page 1



Women at war: young Bosnians at a defence force outpost 300 yards from the Sarajevo front line clean a rifle in preparation for possible exchanges with Serb forces. The Serbs, who surround the Bosnian capital, recently shelled the old city in a stepped-up offensive

## Bonn and Britain open joint embassy

BY MICHAEL BINYON

BRITAIN and Germany yesterday set up the world's first joint embassy in Kazakhstan, when Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, signed an agreement to share a building, facilities and diplomatic reporting in Alma Ata, the Kazakh capital.

Each country will have its own diplomats, but they will pool much of their work as well as helping each other with consular protection, economic analysis and political reporting. The only area that will remain firmly separate will be commercial work, where both countries will be in competition for contracts. The British ambassador and two other staff will arrive in the autumn.

At the signing ceremony, Mr Hurd said that the need for representation in the former Soviet republics demanded many resources. Britain and Germany had decided to pool their efforts and this, he hoped, would be the first of several such agreements. Herr Kinkel said this was extraordinary proof of European co-operation. It was not only a question of cost but of the increasingly close work among European Community diplomats.

The groundwork for yesterday's agreement was laid last year when Mr Hurd met Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the then German foreign minister,

in Leipzig to discuss ways the two countries could operate jointly in the new republics.

Germany's foreign service is structured similarly to that of Britain, and there are no protocol difficulties on either side to prevent co-operation. British officials said they could envisage a time when the Queen could even be represented by a German — something impossible in France, where the president of the republic must always be represented by a Frenchman.

Britain's interest is largely economic: it has relatively little trade or political involvement with the smaller former Soviet republics, and is keen to piggyback on to the larger German presence, gaining a foothold where it would otherwise be uneconomic. Talks however have been going on about other forms of co-operation elsewhere, such as sharing embassy facilities with Holland, Denmark and other small EC countries with which Britain has close relations.

However, Britain does not yet envisage a European Community embassy representing its interests, as that would imply a complete merger of diplomatic services and a common foreign policy that took little heed of individual countries' different interests — something Britain strongly opposed at Maastricht.

## Thousands flee Bosnia every day

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

EVERY day 10,000 people in the former Yugoslavia flee their homes, mostly in Bosnia, Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Belgrade at the end of a five-day trip to the republics.

Mrs Ogata said 117 plans had delivered aid to Sarajevo in one week, "but in the same period 70,000 people became new refugees". She said that one year of war had left 1.7 million displaced within former Yugoslavia with an estimated 500,000 now outside.

While "ethnic cleansing" was first carried out in Serb-held territories in Croatia and subsequently in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the process of clearing areas of other nationalities appears to have become more organised. Villages are being burnt and whole communities deported. UN officials say Serb houses are being dynamited in Croatia. The practice is now spreading to Serbia.

## Sniper fire shakes the cocktails at Sarajevo's frontline hotel

At the war-hit Holiday Inn, the windows and the walls are often missing, writes Bill Frost

WHILE tens of thousands go hungry in Sarajevo, guests at the Holiday Inn can always find a meal of sorts in the hotel restaurant, but at a price.

Few guests arrive these days as mortars pound the car park and sniper fire rakes the walls. The building, which straddles the front line between Muslim and Serb fighters, resembles a giant Rubik cube that has been used for target practice by every gunman in the old city.

In the foyer, with its shattered plate-glass windows, journalists count the intervals between sniper rounds before dashing to their cars and driving away — fast. Martina, the cocktail waitress, offers all guests the same advice: "Stay away from the windows and don't go to the tenth floor."

Room 1034 recently took a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade. A man still lies dead on the bed and nobody is ready to retrieve his body. The gaping hole where there was once an outside wall gives Serb snipers a perfect shot.

Mingling among the journalists are sinister-looking men with short haircuts, wearing black combat fatigues.

They drink copiously, laugh too loudly and play with their guns in an alarming fashion.

The largest man — well over 6ft 6in — said that he was a member of the Croatian special forces who have lined up with the Muslim defenders of Sarajevo. "The hotel is a perfect base for us. We can snipe from here on the Serbs."

The sniping draws retaliation from the tower blocks opposite the Holiday Inn. A British television cameraman was hit in the cheek this week, a day after a bullet had grazed his flank jacket.

Continuing food supplies to the hotel are something of a mystery. There are regular deliveries of meat, vegetables and French mineral water. The bar has never yet run dry. The alcohol comes from the

still flourishing black market. Of the food, Milan Knezevic, the hotel manager, said: "I know you think it is looted from UN supplies, but I assure you it is not. We had a stockpile built up before the war."

Mr Knezevic has the sort of gravitas that discourages further questioning. Or perhaps it is the Russian-made pistol in the band of his trousers.

Only a quarter of the hotel's windows remain intact, only a quarter of the hotel's rooms are habitable. The staff of 500 has shrunk to 70. Branka, a chambermaid, said: "I have two choices: stay in my flat with no light, no water and no food, or come here and earn a little money. I have children to feed. What would you do?"

Anarchy reigns in Sarajevo, and on the roads out of the city to eastern Bosnia. A dozen Chernobyls, extreme Serb nationalists, guarding a checkpoint, waved down our three-car convoy with their Kalashnikovs. A photographer's Audi Quattro was "confiscated". Two bags were taken from the other cars. "Next time you may not be so lucky," said one intimidating bearded man.

## Nato 'used pigs as targets'

Amsterdam: A Dutch army colonel has called on the authorities to allow the shooting of live pigs to aid training of military surgeons (Mark Jenner writes).

Colonel W. van den Bogert told a military medical magazine that he had taken part in a Nato war surgery exercise in Norway, where live pigs were fired upon with different sorts of ammunition. This offered surgeons excellent opportunities to treat bullet wounds.

He said the pigs were sedated so they felt nothing. After being shot, they are ferried to a field hospital where the surgery is carried out under the supervision of a veterinarian, to give surgeons experience not available in daily practice.

## Blaze kills five

Paris: Five people were killed and 12 injured when a man who had been asked to leave a hotel here set fire to it. Police arrested the man, who had to be protected from guests who had survived the fire. (Reuter)

## Archer strikes

Milan: Jane Suzanne Stevens, 21, a London student, had her neck pierced by an arrow as she knocked at the door of a hotel here. She is the third victim of a mysterious archer police likened to William Tell. (AP)

## Four arrested

Berlin: A Pole and two Austrians were in custody accused of illegally importing 11lb of cesium-137, almost 4lb of uranium-238 and 300 smoke detector components containing plutonium, all radioactive materials. Another Pole was also arrested. (AFP)

## Bank bombed

Milan: Bombs, believed to be the work of Eta, the Basque separatist group, exploded outside the Bank of Bilbao and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce here causing damage but no injuries. (Reuter)

## Little prince puts case for ancestral land and castles to big powers

BY MICHAEL BINYON

FOR one little country, the Helsinki summit was not about building castles in the air but getting possession of castles on the ground.

Liechtenstein, population 30,000 and covering an area slightly smaller than the city of Helsinki, has its eye on two castles in Czechoslovakia. Feldberg and Eisgrub, turreted stone piles in Moravia, are the ancestral homes of the princely family now living in Vaduz. If stability and co-operation in Europe are to mean anything, the Liechtensteins argue, they are about restoring lands and castles to their rightful owners.

The royal house acquired

the castles and estates covering about 160 square kilometres in about 1600. After the first world war they were nationalised without compensation by Czechoslovakia, and the truncated republic of Austria separated them from their former owners. Last year the Prague government announced that it was to give back land seized by the communists after 1948 to its former owners. However, there was no mention of compensation for the principality — now doing rather nicely from its fashionable ski slopes and its brass nameplate company headquarters.

Mario von Ledebur-Wichein, a scion of the princely



house though a little vague about his exact place in the family tree, came to Helsinki to seek justice. He fears the land, on which not only castles but also farms and factories now stand, will be sold. He brought with him a princess of the royal house

and Hans Brunhart, the prime minister who also serves as foreign minister, minister of finance, minister of education and minister of construction. Together they threatened to block the entire construction of Europe's future unless their case is heard. Liechtenstein would

not agree to any CSCE economic forum in Prague. It wanted first reassurance from the Czechs "so that from now on the mouse can go to the cat's home and feel in peace." The Duke of Ledebur-Wichein said, with perhaps an unfortunate reference to *The Mouse That Roared*.

For their part the Czechs were ready to do a deal, set up a joint commission and pass the relevant act in parliament. But suddenly their country collapsed. The disputed lands — half the size of the principality itself — are claimed by at least 20 families, including an assortment of minor princelings. None now looks like getting vacant possession. The Duke

of Ledebur-Wichein is an old Helsinki hand, one of the few remaining statesmen involved in CSCE from its first beginnings in 1972. Now he is ready to take his case to the International Court of Justice.

His family has stood up for its rights before: though able to return to Moravia during the German occupation, it vigorously opposed Hitler, and the castles became a hotbed of resistance.

For this most of the family was forced to leave in 1944, yet after the war Czechoslovakia expelled the remaining members on the grounds that they were of German stock — a cruel fate for a principality that never even accepted the Munich agree-

ment, even though Switzerland did. Herr Brunhart was diplomatic enough in his address, speaking in his multi-ministerial capacity, not to dwell on the castles.

In a hint that Liechtenstein would not be trampled on, he said that in matters of sovereignty, self-determination and real freedom, "even the smallest must be taken into consideration". No small detail of their particular concerns should be brushed aside by the larger powers.

For the next week or so he can forget his sovereign's property emoluments. So taken has he been with Finland that he is off on a camping holiday here with his wife and three children.



## Corruption scandal dogs Socialists

## Mitterrand minister denounces judges

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A TEMPEST erupted in the French political world yesterday after news that the republic's third-ranking figure was about to be charged with corruption and an attack by the justice minister against power-mad investigating judges.

Outrage coursed through the corridors of the Mitterrand administration and the governing Socialist party after newspaper reports that Henri Emmanuelli, the Speaker of the National Assembly and a former minister, had been told he was to face charges of influence-peddling. Last night M. Emmanuelli demanded an explanation for the report. His lawyers wrote to the magistrate: "We will act on this as we see fit."

The object of Socialist wrath was Renaud Van Ruymbeke of Rennes, 40, a severe-looking father of seven and the latest in a line of *petits juges* to found the high and mighty of the Fifth Republic. "We cannot fall under government by judges," Michel Vauzelle, the justice minister, said. He denounced M. van Ruymbeke for politically inspired publicity-mongering. "Democracy must not be imperilled by the dysfunction of an institution."

The case, which *Libération*

likened to a multiple-warhead missile for the Socialists, involves the long-standing investigation into the illegal funding of the Socialist party's 1988 campaign, an explosive *affaire* which has defied the best efforts of the Mitterrand administration to stifle it through amnesty and pressure on prosecutors. M. van Ruymbeke took over the case after another zealous young "incorruptible" magistrate, Thierry Jean-Pierre, was taken off the job last year.

What enrages the Socialists is the timing of a leak, published first in *Le Monde*, about M. Emmanuelli's expected indictment for influence-peddling. It came just as the ruling party, weary from unpopularity and long years in power, was embarking on a congress in Bordeaux to chart a course for the Maastricht referendum in September and general elections next year.

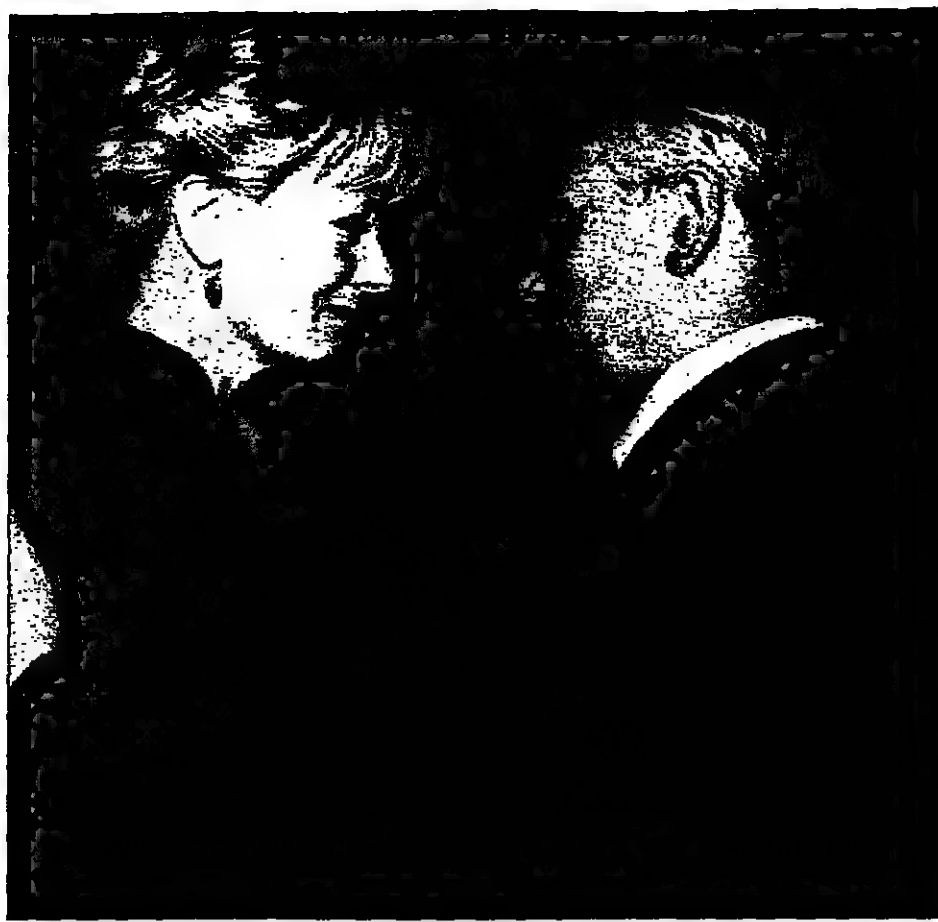
The instigator of the leak, ministers and the party said in unison, was clearly the judge. Only last January, the day after he inherited the affair, M. van Ruymbeke staged a raid on the Socialist headquarters on the Rue Solferino and hauled away a vanload of documents, all in the midst of festivities for the handover of

the party leadership from Pierre Mauroy to Laurent Fabius.

Two such coincidences of timing from Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, downwards, smacked of political sabotage, everyone said yesterday. M. Bérégovoy recalled that he had embarked on a drive to purge political corruption from public life, but this was clearly a political move. "Enough is enough," said M. Fabius, a former prime minister.

M. Mauroy, another former prime minister, rallied his party and government behind M. Emmanuelli last night and denounced what he called "this new form of McCarthyism" by investigating judges. "If M. Emmanuelli is prosecuted, then the whole Socialist party should be prosecuted."

Their charges were still warm last night when the National Judges' Union accused the Socialists themselves of leaking word of the Speaker's imminent indictment.



Old friends Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president of the Soviet Union, greets Vanessa Redgrave, the British actress, in his office at a political think-tank in Moscow. Miss Redgrave, a long-time

member of the left-wing Workers' Revolutionary party, first visited Moscow in 1987, when she praised Mr Gorbachev's policy of glasnost and declared him to be one of her "revolutionary heroes".

## Young find market in Mao memories

Mao Tse-tung is making a comeback with young people in Peking, with a premium on pin badges portraying him.

Tourists are not the only target. Encouraged by the recent public mania for laminated pictures of Mao, the Communist leader who died in 1976, and disco versions of songs praising him, youngsters are looting their parents' and neighbours' memorabilia for old pins to sell to Chinese collectors. One peasant turned down £10,000 from an American tourist for his collection.

Collecting Mao pins is not difficult — billions were made during the 1960s when virtually all Chinese had to wear them to show their political purity. Most have lain forgotten in drawers until now.

□  
Audrey Meadows, 65, who played Jackie Gleason's wife Alice in the 1950s television comedy *The Honeymooners*, lost jewellery in a daylight mugging in Manhattan, but escaped injury.

□  
Bangladesh's ousted president, Hussain Ershad, al-

ready serving a 13-year jail sentence, has been charged with stealing government money in a deal to buy foreign radar equipment, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption said in Dhaka.

□  
Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will make his first official visit to Norway next week at the invitation of the prime minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the government announced. A visit in 1990 was postponed at the height of German reunification.

□  
The Italian singer Al Bano renewed his charge at a Rome court hearing that one of his songs, *Balaka Swans*, had been plagiarised by pop star Michael Jackson. No decision has yet been reached.

□  
The actor James Garner told *Parade* magazine in New York that advice from Charles Laughton got his career on track. He said Laughton told him in the 1950s his problem was that he was afraid to be bad — "and he was right".

## Villains escape the dock

FROM MARY DEJEVY IN MOSCOW

THEY have tried hard to make it as low-key as possible, to hide it in thickets of legalistic terminology and to pretend that nothing special is happening. But even the least informed Moscow taxi driver will tell you, as he passes the inconspicuous turning to the Constitutional Court, that this is where the Soviet Communist Party is on trial.

Every day since Tuesday, from 10 to 6 with a two-hour lunch break, 13 black-robed judges have been hearing, and regularly interrupting, some of the finest and most telling courtroom oratory heard in Russia since the dissident trials of the 1960s. This time, however, it is the communist system that is in the dock.

Those who have come to answer for the party are either its more decent apologists or its more shameless believers. But they are not the people who dispatched the Bats and other nations to their death or signed away the money of the state. The real villains are mostly far away, a few are dead, and even fewer in prison. As so often, the "little" people are taking the flak; the cogs are being blamed, not the inventor, and not the machine minder.

The "trial" has illustrated how diametrically opposed are the world views of those who lived their lives in the party's cocoon and those who set out to oppose it. The Communists concentrate on their "heroic" history: they rebuilt the country after wars; more communists than non-communists were lost at war and in the purges. For President Yeltsin's team, however, those very same "heroic" deeds proceed from the crimes of the party that flouted all norms.

## Students starve in Moscow

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

STUDENTS from Third World countries are facing poverty and hunger in Moscow's grimy hostels, as living costs spiral in the Russian capital. The worst off, however, are more than 300 students from Ethiopia who have been camping in the grounds of their embassy for weeks. Yesterday they appealed for international help to ease their miserable conditions.

As well as the acute problem of finding enough to live on, many courses have become largely irrelevant since the collapse of communism.

Student stipends have risen, but only by an average of two to three times, while living costs have risen ten to 20-fold under price liberalisation. While most students at the Ethiopian embassy are from Moscow institutes, others have travelled thousands of miles from cities in the former Soviet Union to find shelter in the diplomatic compound.

The students now spend their nights camped in a hall at the embassy. Rations are limited to two thick slices of bread three times a day.

With extreme tact and politeness, the Ethiopian students explained that, although conditions are awful, they have not resorted to crime. "Although some may steal, we do not. It is not in our Ethiopian culture to do such a thing," said Debrework Yaelete, 32, a law student, who gets about £1 a month.

## Seven satellites will take Tosca to world

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

THE Three Tenors concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome two years ago during the football World Cup showed that opera could reach audiences world-wide, and ten million copies of the concert video were sold into the bargain.

Encouraged by this successful precedent, Italian state television and Andrea Andermann, an independent producer, have teamed up to bring the world *Tosca in the Settings and at the Times of Tosca*, which is to be broadcast live to more than 70 countries today and tomorrow.

The ambitious enterprise, costing about \$8 million, (£4.2 million) is being shot in the format of a film but will actually be a live performance. The technical challenges are daunting. Zubin Mehta will conduct the orchestra in a television studio while the protagonists, Plácido Domingo as the

painter Mario Cavaradossi, Ruggero Raimondi as the evil police chief Baron Scarpia, and Catherine Malfitano as Tosca, perform live in the Rome settings specified in the libretto.

The protagonists will be able to follow the conductor on television monitors discreetly concealed around the set, while Mehta and the orchestra follow their movements on their own monitors and listen to their voices on earphones. Thanks to the use of seven satellites, an estimated 1.5 billion viewers from Burundi to Laos will be able to watch the production.

"What will be really exciting will be the live blunder or the technical hitch," said Giuseppe Patroni Griffi, the director. Viewers will be relieved to know that Tosca's leap to her death from the top of the walls of the Castel Sant' Angelo actually ends after a mere two yards on a large pile of cushions.

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## Clifford Longley

The church should not set such high standards for our sexual behaviour

The hunt for a new public sexual ethic is now raking through the debris of the old, to see what in traditional Christian morality might after all be worth keeping. The Methodist Conference, which met in Newcastle last week, and the General Synod of the Church of England, meeting in York today, are the latest to join the search. Even the Department of Health, with its talk of "sexual health", is interested in the outcome. The experiment of managing with no public sexual principles, when all was left to preference, lifestyle or "orientation", seems to have been abandoned, as a failure.

The Methodists have agreed a new statement about sex, marriage and the family, replacing a document dating from 1939. But it manifestly coasted over some of the trickier contemporary sexual issues. Younger speakers in the debate lamented the inadequacy of its treatment of the immorality of cohabitation. "People should have been affirmed in their existing lifestyles," said one politically correct but thoroughly old-fashioned young Methodist.

The synod tonight faces a similar challenge. Canon Michael Walter is inviting it to recognise "that it is now an accepted custom in England for couples to live together before marriage, while others express the intention never to be formally married". The House of Bishops, his resolution goes on, should give moral guidance to the nation about this, and advise the clergy how to treat parishioners in such situations — including the option, presumably, of "affirming them in their existing lifestyles".

Christian sexual morality still represents the standards that society likes to admire. It speaks of love, trust and commitment in nature and lasting relationships and of support for family life. So if it is being rejected, that may be because it extols only one pattern as good and the rest as irredeemably bad. It says nothing except "don't" to homosexual, the divorced, the adolescent, the unmarried, and those living together. But this is more the result of a particular methodology than a fault in content. There is nothing distinctively Christian, nothing biblical nor dominical, about the moral philosophy in which this teaching is traditionally set. It is a philosophy of perfectionism, which condemns all who do not meet its extremely high standards.

It presumably originates in the Judaic tradition of ritual purity, where one spot, actual or metaphorical, can render a person or thing unclean, polluted and useless. With that goes a half memory, lingering in European culture, of the medieval church's penitential codes, with precise penalties for every sin and the sharpest of lines between mortal sin (often sexual) and all other kinds. Grafted on to that in time were the Lutheran-Calvinist perceptions of human nature as "utterly depraved", making the moral life look as perilous and precarious as a tightrope above a seething furnace. Finally came the effort, in the 1753 Marriage Act, to enforce the public registration of marriage by abominating all alternatives.

All these things shaped the belief that being sexually correct was very difficult, and that the gateway to grace and salvation was impossibly straight and narrow. It was a formula not for happiness and fulfilment but for failure and guilt. What might a better Christian morality look like? It would continue to uphold the Christian ideal. Rather than deploring all approximations to it, however, they would be encouraged. A young woman progressing from sleeping with many men to sleeping with just one, then moving in with her boyfriend, then becoming pregnant and giving birth, then marrying, could be admired and congratulated at each step for moving in the right direction, commiserated with if ever she was forced to reverse her course. It would be a direction which did not necessarily have a final destination: nobody can claim to have completed a successful marriage, after all, until they die.

Under the perfectionism of traditional morality, however, such a woman (or man in a similar case) would be blamed for a series of sexual sins, and treated as somebody unworthy of Christian marriage because of her earlier shameful behaviour. But it is not what Christianity demands. And a progressive morality of good-better-best rather than a polarised morality of good-bad is truer to how people intuitively feel about varieties of sexual behaviour.

Many MPs dread retirement from Westminster's uproar, but Robert Rhodes James has no regrets

## Hell is an all-night sitting

Most retiring MPs suffer acute withdrawal symptoms and find getting off the treadmill much more traumatic than getting onto it. They are those to whom politics, and above all the House of Commons, have been their lives, now suddenly confronted with empty days, silent telephones, a modest mail, and the indifference of the media. What local respect, or odium, they may have acquired is abruptly transferred to his successor — who is, of course, not a patch on the retiring MP. I can understand why so many of my former colleagues suffer so terribly from deprivation of the very things they used to curse so passionately when they were eager participants in the Great Game.

But there is another attitude, best expressed by Christopher Hollis in 1955 when he wrote, "No one knows what heaven is until he has been in the House of Commons — and left it." For this group, life after politics is more like a return to real life. There is time for reading, thinking, for one's true friends, many of whom have been badly neglected as a result of the pressures of politics, proper holidays without a nagging sense of guilt, and a welcoming of the glories of the English summer and July rather than a fear and resentment of them.

I belong emphatically to the Hollis school, admittedly rather to my surprise, as I deeply enjoyed my 26 years in the House, first as a Clerk and then an MP for the incomparable city of Cambridge, whose history I am, *inter alia*, planning to write. To my genuine surprise I

left the lovely palace without a pang or a backward look. My only emotion on watching the election of Madam Speaker on television was what a procedural shambles it was.

An old friend, driving me past the Palace of Westminster, asked me what I felt. "Not a thing," I replied, and meant it. I had made elaborate plans for the next chapter in my life, and was eager to get on with them. Also, politics never was my entire life, and the real friends I made on both sides of the House remain friends. And we still live in our beautiful house outside Cambridge. My wife has decided that this will be the Year of the Garden, and our two new King Charles Cavalier spaniel

puppies frolic happily on the lawn, and are learning, very quickly, to be good pub dogs. My wonderful library study is at long last being repainted, and I am mentally planning a major reorganisation of my several thousand books and the necessary new shelves.

I have so many occupations, projects, and possibilities that I am busier than ever — but constructively busy.

This is the real point. Although I was able to achieve a lot for my constituents over 15 years, the list of actual achievements, although rather more than most backbenchers', is depressingly small in comparison with the effort involved. The general run of most backbench-

ers' lives is a succession of lengthy chores on boring committees and hanging around waiting for votes or coping with discontented constituents. It is not only a tedious life, punctuated by spasms of excitement, but a remarkably unproductive one, but for the deep, and often unexpected, friendships. A House of Commons without Ian Gow and Eric Heffer had little attraction for me.

But politics are a drug, or a disease, that are a lifelong addiction for which there is no known cure. The aged Wilberforce, learning that a young relative had been elected to Parliament, said, "Ah! I hear that cry again — 'Hear, Hear!' What a life it was!" Lord

Randolph Churchill said that even to an inveterate gambler such as him, politics were the greatest gamble of all (and one which he so spectacularly nearly won, and then, even more sensationally, lost). But it is an equally enjoyable spectator sport, especially when you know the players so well, and it is more comfortable, as well as much safer, to be in the grandstand rather than on the pitch, being jostled and reviled for your pains.

I wish the present Members of Parliament well, but if I see some of them looking wistfully at me I shall understand. In the meanwhile, it is a glorious day, the pub is now open, and my little eager dogs need a walk. And when I hear on the radio that "The House sat late again", I know Hollis was right.

Sir Robert Rhodes James was MP for Cambridge, 1976-1992.

## Can the young pretender win?

Peter Stothard asks if next week's intense media exposure will boost or sink Bill Clinton

Among the hush woodlands of southern Arkansas, a few miles from Hope, the birthplace of Bill Clinton, Arkansas governor and Democratic frontrunner for the presidential nomination, is a field of deep-ploughed soil with the grand title: "America's only diamond mine". The local sport is to sit for hours here on a carefully selected rut and to crumble sods — an activity occasionally rewarded by gems such as the four-carat Kahn stone, worn on Hillary Clinton's ballgown.

"If only Bill Clinton were to spend next week here instead of at the Democratic convention," Bob Batt, an Arkansas supporter of Governor Clinton, told me, "his chances of seeing Hillary glitter at his own inaugural ball would be great. Instead, he will be in New York (he spits the word) and seen on TV surrounded by everything that makes him unelectable — sleaze, violence, sex and fat food."

Today Mr Batt's opinion is a minority one. Most Democrats are not complaining about Governor Clinton being shown in too sharp a light. Instead they whine about media neglect by the big television networks, which, even before the convention begins, are charged with abnegating their public service responsibilities and failing to cover the convention with the comprehensive seriousness of the past.

But a few in the Clinton campaign do have sympathy with the diamond-mine view. While they do not want Arkansas obscurity for their convention, somewhere less combustible than New York suddenly looks very appealing. This is going to become an important question over the coming months of a three-way race. Does Governor Clinton need more light or does he do better in the dark? Is he a born failure for the big stage who can best succeed by waiting in the wings for George Bush and Ross Perot to duel to the death? Or is the Arkansas governor now capable

of being revealed in all his post-primary glory, free of opponents, intra-party rows, sex scandals and all the other accretions of this extraordinary election year.

In the past few weeks, while Ross Perot and George Bush have held the headlines, Bill Clinton's poll ratings have soared. Conventional wisdom decrees that this ought to happen for a Democratic candidate when unemployment is rising across America, when the biggest states are suffering the worst, and California, the biggest state of all, has run out of tax money to pay its bills. But, as Bill Clinton's more realistic admirers admit, it would not necessarily have happened if the brightness of the media had been falling upon him. "It is part of Bill Clinton's character to be able to parry criticism with great skill," Mr Batt says. "But it is a bigger part of his nature to absorb blame that will not fade. That is his problem now."

The official Clinton campaign affects to see things differently. Those Arkansas fears, its spokesmen say, are part of the past. The scandals are over. The primaries — with their need to defeat the pro-business Paul Tsongas one week and the anti-business Jerry Brown the next — are over. Remember too, they say, how the conventions have changed. Once upon a time the year's wheel-dealing would all be done next week. Now it is the primary system which does the dirty work. Next week is to be a coronation: let the media lights shine in and "curse them if they ignore our best side".

The political convention, a peculiarly American gift to politics, certainly has changed. When it was invented in 1831 by a group opposed to freemasonry, the reasoning was simply to find some way of selecting a presidential candidate — for groups who lacked congressmen to do the job. William Wirt, the first candidate ever chosen by a convention, was an early prod-



At the 1976 Democratic Convention in New York Jimmy Carter coasted to victory and then won the presidency in November

uct of the misunderstanding and intrigue for which the process soon became notorious. He was actually quite sympathetic to freemasonry.

Eventually convention clashes became so unpredictable and bitter that ways had to be found to resolve disputes earlier. In 1924, New York played host to the longest convention in the Democratic party's history. After 17 days and 103 ballots between rival candidates from rural and urban America, the compromise victor was a certain John W. Davis, a man almost unknown then as now, who subsequently suffered heavy defeat by the president, Calvin "keep cool with" Coolidge. It has been rare since then for the system to break down so totally,

although the Chicago riots of 1968 did almost as much to destroy Hubert Humphrey's electoral prospects.

Today Democratic officials do not even contemplate such a disaster. The favoured New York model is not 1924 but 1976, when Jimmy Carter arrived with such overwhelming primary support that there were none of the bruising procedural battles (still less the street conflicts) of Chicago. Mr Carter was truly crowned in New York and went on to win nationally in November.

The Carter success was helped by New York but based on a clear philosophy of change that responded to the mood of post-Watergate America. The Clinton success, his supporters hope,

will also be based on a clear reforming message. The selection of Senator Al Gore as vice-presidential running mate is supposed to show that the time for policy negotiations is over.

Governor Clinton, it is said, is no longer looking to outdo Jesse Jackson and Jerry Brown in inner-city spending promises. He can be himself — the moderate, southern Democrat who can woo the suburbs and the South and most of the blacks who bother to vote. The desired result would be a close win in a three-man race or an inconclusive election which hands on the appointment of President Clinton to a Democratic congress which ought to know its duty.

The professional Democrats of Arkansas are more confident

this weekend than at any time since the days before the *General Election* set allegations. They want the publicity next week because they believe that their candidate's poor reputation for honesty can be expunged by intensive exposure.

But back in the diamond mine, where Governor Clinton's amateur observers congregate, Mr Batt argues that the media will simply concentrate on trivia, such as the promised 50,000 AIDS protesters, Central Park fun-runs and free meals for delegates in New York's finest 100 restaurants. "Bill is going to be stuck up there like a bad comic with a few pathetic props that make him look a fool. If only he were stuck down here instead."



...and moreover

## PHILIP HOWARD

Fukuyama's claim that history is dead was always a piece of book-seller's hype rather than the truth. History never looks like history when you are living through it. It always looks trivial and untidy, and it always feels uncomfortable. What is true is that one of the world's great historical works is in danger of dying from lack of funds. *The Victoria County History*, one of those encyclopaedic Victorian institutions like *The Oxford English Dictionary* and *The Dictionary of National Biography*, is seriously threatened by the recession, rate-capping, poll tax and the council charge. Local authorities, which have financed the VCH for almost a century, can no longer afford it.

Does it matter? Is not the vast historical encyclopaedia of every county, parish by parish, an irrelevant luxury in these hard times? Well, no, since you ask. History matters, in spite of the Visigoths of materialism, even if it does not appear to be superlatively cost-effective. An individual or a nation that forgets its history is a rootless creature.

Anybody trying to write a decent book of local history consults his or her primary sources first of all the relevant big red books of the VCH. Archaeologists, university lecturers, teachers of history and geography for the National Curriculum, if they have any sense, turn first to the VCH. You cannot apply market forces to a long-term work of scholarship such as the VCH

because most of its market is not born yet. Volumes published a century ago are still heavily used today. The only way we can repay the debt to those who produced the early volumes is to carry on the work for future generations. Charities and companies contribute a bit to the VCH. A year it costs to keep the VCH afloat. But companies are reluctant to subscribe to something that they believe should be publicly funded, and where the publicity of sponsorship is confined to the thoughtful classes, and lies a long way in the future.

Most of what an individual or a county or a nation spends goes on ephemeral things. But we shall be judged by the long-term projects that we leave behind for our successors. So far, we are not doing too well in this line. Stansted airport, Canary Wharf and the Channel tunnel may give the future some idea of our priorities, but not a very obliging one. Some books, mainly of scholarship and biography, are being published which will still be read in the next millennium. I guess that paintings are being painted and music is being composed that will last, but they are not thick on the ground. Most architecture for our DIY and disposable society looks like Wimpys bars and is meant to be replaced within a generation. If we let inherited institutions like the London zoo and the VCH go down the pan, we are going to get a severe verdict from history. Much guff is talked about Victorian values, by those who

have read no Dickens or Mayhew. But as far as they mean anything, they are taken to support the family, reliability and hard work. (They also meant a huge underclass, the workhouse, public executions and mass prostitution.) The VCH is very Victorian. It is produced by hard scholarly work. It is as reliable as a metronome in publishing its volumes, 200 so far and another 200 to go, and is fascinated by families. It is Victorian in its comprehensiveness, its ambitious scale, and in its insane confidence that the task is possible and that the results will have permanent value.

It covers most aspects of Englishness, from wild flowers to far too much about fox-hunting in the early volumes. It is even fascinating for wordsmiths about the lingo. It has abandoned its more rebarbative technicalities, such as "levied a fine" and "suffered a recovery". But it can still draw fine distinctions, as between "widow", defining status, and "relict", defining relationship. Anne becomes a widow on her husband Bernard's death, but on marrying Charles ceases to be a widow while remaining Bernard's relict.

The VCH is one of the few things that we are producing that we can be sure will be of lasting value a century from now. We should be wanton prodigals with our inheritance to let it sink for want of the triviality of a little money that would pay for a fin of Trident.

## Boxed-in Bosnian

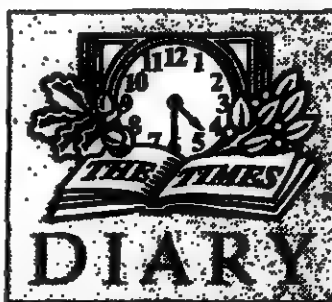
NO wonder President Izetbegovic of Bosnia appealed for military aid against the Serbs when he arrived at Helsinki for the Conference on Security and Co-operation. Not content with besieging his country, the Serbs had added insult to injury by stealing Izetbegovic's presidential Lear jet.

The embarrassment of Izetbegovic and the dening of Bosnian pride, the Serbian hijack meant that when the president set out for Helsinki to rub shoulders with John Major and George Bush, he was reduced to sitting on an orange box in the back of a humble transporter.

Few of the other leaders were aware of the difficulties Izetbegovic had encountered in joining them. The Bosnian president had been forced to hitch a lift on the plane, part of the European Community's relief operation, which first had to be decanted of goats and chickens before he could make himself comfortable on his makeshift seat.

He had lost his jet when the two Serbian pilots, who had previously remained loyal, finally found it all too much. They took the presidential plane out of its hangar at Sarajevo airport, allegedly to investigate an engine fault. Security guards stood around oblivious as they taxied on to the runway for what appeared to be routine maintenance. Then, without warning, they switched to full throttle and took off over the Sarajevo skyline. The presidential plane, according to local reports, is now to be seen parked on the runway at Belgrade airport.

Izetbegovic is due in London shortly to meet Lord Carrington. Heaven knows whom he will hitch a ride with this time.

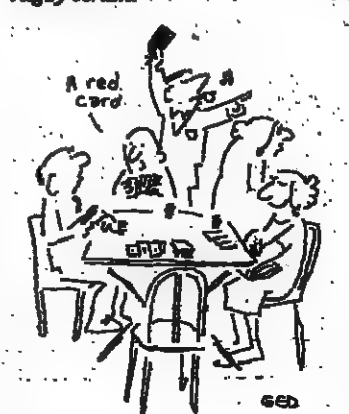


## Rowing boats

"Of all the ports in all the world, he has to go and sail into mine," Ali Fayed could have been forgiven for saying something similar on Thursday night. There was the chairman of House of Fraser enjoying life on board the *Sakara*, the teak schooner built by his grandfather at the turn of the century, nestled in the tiny harbour of Porto Cervo in Sardinia. Then in sails the *Hansa*, the floating palace of Tiny Rowland, archenemy of the Fayed since the Harrods takeover. Yesterday the crew of the *Hansa* were still awaiting their captain of industry's arrival. "All we need now is for the *Lady Ghislaine* to show up," says a spokesman for Fayed. "I don't think there will be an exchange of signals between the *Hansa* and *Sakara* unless it is very short and to the point. But Fayed will be giving a cheery wave, particularly if the *Hansa* takes off in the direction of the Canary Isles."

● Mixing with the likes of Steve Overt, Frank Bruno and Henry Cooper at the Buckingham Palace lunch for British sporting champions this week was the unlikely and unassuming figure of Albert Dormer, The Times's bridge correspondent and reigning world seniors champion, with

his partner, Alan Hiron, of The Independent. Did the genteel bridge-players not feel overawed among such muscular champions? "Not at all," says Dormer. "Bridge is no less vigorously contested than the physical sports. And we have our cerebral equivalent of shirt-tugging, not to mention the cynical foul. In many ways there is very little difference between the bridge table and the rugby scrum."



## MPs work up a sweat

WITH one eye on Virginia Bottomley's white paper on personal health, MPs are deciding whether they want to do it together. They are voting on a plan for mixed sauna sessions at the House of Commons gymnasium. So far the steamy suggestion has met a mixed response. Edwina Currie, a regular at the gym, says: "It's an interesting proposition, but may have disadvantages. We already have mixed gym sessions, which cause all sorts of problems. When I get on the exercise bike after a male MP, it is invariably too high, and extremely uncomfortable. Mixed saunas sound fine, but it would depend on who was in there with you."

## Pay the bill for Benn

NIGEL Benn starts a bout of serious training this weekend, armed with all but his favourite sports car — a white Porsche. The former middleweight champion, who takes on Italian Mario Galvano in September, has lost his £30,000 roadster.

While it was undergoing minor repairs at a London garage, Patrick Moylett, a motor trader, drove the Porsche around to show it to his next-door neighbour, who had heard it was up for sale. Moylett had emerged to discover the vehicle had been stolen, and worse still, Benn was not comprehensively insured. Benn, not best pleased, for immediate compensation. When a middleweight champion says cough up, only a fool argues and Moylett has duly paid.



**ALAN HADFIELD,**  
12 Chipstead Close,  
Maidstone, Kent.







## OBITUARIES

## ANNE, COUNTESS OF ROSSE

Anne, Countess of Rosse, mother of the Earl of Snowdon, died on July 3 at Nymans, Sussex, aged 90. She was born on February 8, 1902.

GRAND-DAUGHTER of the Punch cartoonist and early photographer, Edward Linley Sambourne, Anne Messel married first Ronald Armstrong-Jones and then the 6th Earl of Rosse. In her own right she was one of Britain's most distinguished gardeners and a keen conservationist. In London her great achievement was the preservation of the intensely Victorian 18, Stafford Terrace.

Anne Messel descended from a German family, her grandfather Ludwig coming to England and setting up as a successful stockbroker. Other relatives were a distinguished scientist, who bequeathed a million pounds to the Royal Society. They married into a literary family which included Sheridan and Thomas Linley, composers.

Nymans, the house in Sussex, was bought by Ludwig Messel in 1890. Thus the family had been there for more than a century and house and garden have been nurtured by grandfather, father and latterly Lady Rosse herself. She was raised there and thoroughly trained by the Nymans plantsman, James Coomber, whom she described as "a terrifying Mr Macgregor". He once kept her hard at work for a whole day tying up wall-plants with real knots. When her father cleared the gorse covers for the latest batch of rhododendrons from Tasmania and Chile, an act that greatly irritated the local hunt, the inferno raged so hard that the three Messel children were almost burned in the fray.

There was Linley, Anne, and her younger brother, Oliver, who raised the art of stage design to match the performance being given on stage and sometimes surpassed it. Anne was born at 27 Gloucester Terrace, London. Soon afterwards the family moved to 104 Lancaster Gate. As a child she gazed at the passing carriages in the Baywater Road and apparently could see the cupolas and chimneys of Kensington Palace, without knowing the significance it would play in her family's later life.

The Messels also had a country home, Balcombe House, near St



Leonard's Forest, but Nymans was always their favourite. Lady Rosse wrote of it: "Little else than farm carts, dog carts, and the carriages of the local gentry disturbed the quiet lane... The wood and woodlands belonged to themselves and to the neighbourhood, to live in peacefully, to farm in and to enjoy. Sundays were kept as Sundays should be, then, and farmers tossed their hay on summer evenings in linen stocks."

She was educated at home by a governess and in June 1922 was presented at court, already very pretty with her dark brown eyes. Anne

met her first husband, Ronald Armstrong-Jones, through her brother Linley. They had been at Eton together and Linley invited him to Nymans in 1924 to ask his advice about the estate. Anne and Ronald were married in St Margaret's, Westminster, in July 1925, the occasion made memorable by the imaginative artistic touches of her brother, Oliver.

Her father, Colonel Messel, gave the young couple the lease of 25 Easton Terrace, with a suitable endowment. It was soon adorned under Oliver Messel's baroque influence, tempered with the white of

Syrie Maugham. They had two children, Susan (the late Viscountess de Vesci) born in 1927, and Antony (the present Lord Snowdon) in 1930.

During these years Anne took a prominent part in English social life. She was photographed by many of the great photographers of the day, often in an arcadian setting. As she veered more to the aesthetic tastes of her younger brother and his friends, so Ronald Armstrong-Jones became more serious and disapproving. His love for fishing and wild-fowling were not hers. Neither did his precision and desire for punctuality trim well with her heady social life. In 1933 they agreed to separate and in due course divorce followed.

Anne found long and lasting happiness with the Earl of Rosse, a man four years her junior. He had worshipped her since he was 18 and now he was able to claim her. In *The Letters of Evelyn Waugh* the editor, Mark Amory, revealed that this romance had endured difficult moments in Venice. "The Countess of Rosse stepped innocently on to a balcony with another man. Though they were not yet married, the jealous Earl of Rosse boomed his ears with some violence. When he sent long-stemmed tuberoses in apology, they were returned." Anne married Rosse in September 1935 and they had two sons, the elder of whom is the present Earl of Rosse.

Lord Rosse gave her the possibility of leading a yet more romantic life in his Gothic Irish castle, Birr, and at Womersley Park in Yorkshire, homes to which she had access for the rest of her life. Birr she adored, particularly the ancient staircase made of yew. Here young Tony Armstrong-Jones played and rowed on the lake and here too, later, he recovered from the pox which threatened his walking. It was Lady Rosse who gave her son his first camera, though she preferred the idea of his being an architect. Nevertheless she delighted in his success in his chosen profession.

During these years her parents lived on at Nymans, which was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1953. However, it remained her home and she and Lord Rosse not only preserved but nurtured it. Rosse continued the tradition of financing Far Eastern expeditions

to bring experimental cuttings back to this country. As a gardener and householder, Lady Rosse believed that both house and garden should reflect "the personalities and whims of those who have trod its paths and the aspirations of its makers and improvers; mirroring a glimpse from each generation, that time and growth have moulded into a harmonious whole."

Though Nymans had a large garden, it retained an air of intimacy. The house, formerly of a modest Regency design, had been subtly converted to seem like a fourteenth century building, added to intermittently. When fire destroyed part of the old Great Hall in 1947, it was left a part ruin, with an abundance of honeysuckle, roses, and *loniceria etrusca* climbing in and out of the empty windows.

Lady Rosse was fortunate to possess a happy combination of Messel money and Sambourne taste to aid her in her work in the garden. Her husband shared her love of it and they relished their own expeditions to Portugal and the United States in search of plants. In recent years Nymans was run by six National Trust gardeners, overseen by Lady Rosse.

Socially she occupied a rare position. She was grand and very pretty. Society was occasionally disparaging about her. Evelyn Waugh referred to her in his diaries as "Tugboat Annie." And due to an ancient jealousy with Oliver Messel, she became the butt of Cecil Beaton's malice.

Yet she possessed a rare serenity, choosing to remain aloof from the world, planning her garden, dwelling on the past, writing letters to friends very early in the morning, and designing her own hand-made Christmas cards. She savoured the life she had shared with Oliver and others in the knowledge that, however displeasing the books written about them, nobody could take her memories from her. She was a good and generous hostess, serving strong drinks, notably Lord Rosse's Bacardi cocktail: two parts Bacardi, one Dubonnet, one orange and much sugar.

In her last eighties she retreated to Nymans, dwelling serenely in a world of her own. Lord Snowdon had a cottage on the land, likewise a welcome retreat from a busy life.

## JAMES CRESPI

(Caesar) James Crespi, QC, a recorder of the Crown Court, died on July 4 aged 65. He was born on June 25, 1927.

JAMES Crespi had one of the most brilliant minds at the criminal bar and was one of its outstanding characters. He was almost as well known out of court as in it. His plump, sometimes dishevelled appearance invited comparison with John Mortimer's creation Rumpole of the Bailey. But intellectually, physically, and professionally his stature was larger than that of the good Horace. He also normally appeared for the prosecution.

Friends and colleagues preferred to think of Crespi as "Johnston" as he held court, first in early evening at El Vino's, then at the Garrick, where he tended to dine three nights a week. He loved good food, fine wines and human fellowship and was a legendary, often inventive, raconteur.

Crespi never owned a television set but was a devoted listener to the radio. He was never to be disturbed on Sunday mornings, when he caught up with the omnibus edition of *The Archers*. He never learned to drive but travelled everywhere by taxi and was a familiar fare to London cabbies.

When not at the Garrick or tuned in to BBC Radio he read widely outside his subject and also wrote. His favourite subjects were Ancient Rome, in particular the Punic Wars — on which he was permanently engaged in writing a new history. He filled one exercise book after another though, as his handwriting was quite indecipherable, his chances of publication seemed remote.

His failure to be made a full-time judge disappointed and perplexed his fellow advocates. For the last 19 years, however, he might well have counted himself lucky to be alive. A casualty of the IRA's Old Bailey bomb in March 1973, he was rushed to St Bartholomew's Hospital with more than 60 shrapnel splinters in him, including one lodged behind an eye.

He explained from his hospital bed: "A policeman shouted: 'For God's sake, run' — but unfortunately I ran the wrong way. So I thought I would save the Old Bailey by placing my body between it and the bomb."

His body weighed more than 20 stone in his prime) was certainly thought to have saved his own life by protect-

ing his vital organs from the blast. He carried some shrapnel with him to the end: his surgeon said that to find it all would have needed an archaeological expedition.

His qualifications for the bench were never in question. On the occasions when he sat as a recorder, the quality of his summings-up at the Old Bailey and the common sense and compassion of his sentencing made him seem a natural candidate for promotion. But his health (he was a chronic asthmatic) and eccentricities probably told against him in the Lord Chancellor's office assessments. He once set himself on fire while in court through his habit of stowing away his pipe while it was still alight.

His many engagingly English characteristics belie his ancestry. He was born Cesare Giacomo Crespi, the son of an orchestral conductor in Milan. But he came here as a baby, aged nine months, when his father set up in business in this country. Although he anglicised his name while growing up, he was always known as "Caesar" to his family.

He went to the City of London School during the war when the school had been evacuated to Marlborough, and moved from there to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he took a starred first in law. He then taught for a time at the University College



of Wales, Aberystwyth, before being called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1951.

He practised on the southern circuit, soon becoming a familiar figure at the Old Bailey. Among his cases was the 1968 trial of the Kray twins, in which he appeared as a counsel for the prosecution. He was made a Crown Court recorder in 1973 and took silk nine years later.

James Crespi, who made an unhappy marriage many years ago, is survived by a married sister.

## James Todd

JAMES Carter Todd, a former US military attaché to Hungary who was detained during the Cold War and accused of spying, has died aged 85.

Todd was detained in 1957 by Hungarian soldiers and

accused of spying on an airfield. He was released after five hours of questioning and formal charges were not filed until he had left Hungary.

Todd, who fought in Europe during the second world war with the 82nd Airborne Division, retired from the army in 1962 as a colonel.

## KELVIN COE

Kelvin Coe, OBE, Australian ballet dancer, died in Melbourne on July 9 aged 45 of an AIDS-related illness. He was born in Melbourne on September 18, 1946.

KELVIN Coe was in temperament and style entirely typical of the breed of Australian male dancers which has arisen over the last couple of generations. Tough and athletic, he combined a forthright manner with an expressive grasp of character. He attracted attention for the brightness of his virtuosity and the vividness of his dramatic flair: qualities which quickly took him to the top of his profession.

Having studied dance as a boy in Melbourne (tap dance first, then ballet from the age of 12), Coe reached his 16th birthday just as the Australian Ballet was preparing its first season in 1962. At that time any male dancer was welcome, let alone one with his obvious promise. Coe became a founder member. By the time the company made its first visit to Britain less than three years later, Coe already stood out as one of the soloists in the production of *Raymond* which Nureyev mounted for them here, dancing in the celebrated male part of *quatre* and also appearing as one of the two troubadours. That role entailed measuring himself,



jump for jump, with Nureyev, a task in which he did not disgrace himself.

Soon choreographers were creating roles for him: Robert Helpmann in *Sun Music*, Igor Moiseyev in *The Last*

Vision. When Ashton's *The Dream*, *Les Patineurs* and *Les Rendez-vous* entered the repertoire, he was the obvious choice for the leading male roles. Roland Petit cast him as Don José in *Carmen*.

His range extended to the big romantic leads, in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, where many leading ballerinas were grateful for his exceptionally strong

partnering. But he was at his best in parts calling for more extrovert display, especially if they afforded scope for his gift for comedy, such as *Colas in Ashton's La Fille mal gardée*.

A perfectionist by nature, Coe burnished his technique with further study in Paris under Raymond Franchetti and in 1973 he won the silver medal in the Moscow International Ballet Competition. That brought him guest engagements, starting at the Bolshoi in Moscow and including a season with the London Festival Ballet in 1974.

Coe's first loyalty remained with the Australian Ballet and their visits to London over the years allowed audiences here to watch his development, from an exhilarating account of Basilio in *Don Quixote* (sharing the role with Nureyev in 1973) to an effusively bustling Camille de Roussillon in *The Merry Widow* (1976), and more recently the adult Twelve, which he danced at Covent Garden in 1988.

That was one of several roles he played for Murphy, both with his home company and with Murphy's Sydney Dance Company, starting with *Homeland* which was made specially for him in 1982. Other choreographers for whom Coe worked included John Butler, Ronald Hynd, Gillian Lynne, Barry

Moreland and Glen Tetley. As his artistic range grew, Coe's youthful energy inevitably declined and he commented ruefully that "you have to work twice as hard to get the same effect... Classical dancing is something the human body is not designed for".

Consequently he withdrew from regular appearances, but continued his connection with dance as a full-time teacher at the Australian Ballet School from 1986, where he expected the highest standards from his pupils. He was also from 1987 to 1990 director of the Dancers Company, and co-director last year. It was formed to undertake annual tours to bring ballet to young dancers and to senior students from the school. Coe's last stage appearance was as an ugly sister with Ray Powell in Powell's production of *Cinderella* for the school last December.

Coe had a surprisingly quiet manner off stage and was much liked by his colleagues for his easy-going optimistic temperament. Former dancers and friends rallied to give him constant support and company during the final stages of his illness. The Australian ballet dedicated their performance at the London Coliseum on July 9 to his memory. He was appointed OBE in 1980.

## Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Robert the Bruce VIII, King of Scotland 1306-29, 1274; Luis de Góngora y Argote, poet, Cordoba, Spain, 1561; John Quincy Adams, 6th president of the USA 1825-29, Quincy Massachusetts, 1767.

DEATHS: Charles Macklin, actor-manager, London, 1797; William Ernest Henley, poet, London, 1903; Alfred Dreyfus, French army officer who was wrongly imprisoned on Devil's Island for espionage, Paris, 1935; George Gerwin, composer, Hollywood, 1937; Sir Arthur Evans, archaeologist, Youlbury, Oxon, 1941; Barbara Woodton, Baroness Woodton of Abinger, sociologist, 1988; Laurence Olivier, actor-manager, actor-manager, 1963-73, 1899.

Tomorrow BIRTHS: Julius Caesar, Rome, 100BC; Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffs, 1730; Henry David Thoreau, writer, Concord, Massachusetts, 1817; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, New York, 1854; Stephen

George, poet, Sudesheim, Germany, 1868; F.E. Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead, lord chancellor 1919-22, Birkenhead, 1872; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Leghorn, 1894; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Hamar, Norway, 1895; Oscar Hammerstein II, song writer, New York, 1895; Pablo Neruda, poet and diplomat, Chile laureate 1971, Parral, 1904.

DEATHS: Jack Cade, rebel leader, Heathfield, East Sussex, 1450; Erasmus, scholar, Basel, 1536; Robert Stevenson, civil engineer, Edinburgh, 1850; Gertrude Bell, traveller, Baghdad, 1924; Charles Stewart Rolls, aviator and co-founder of Rolls-Royce, killed in an air crash, Bournemouth, 1910.

## Plumbers' Company

The Master of the Plumbers' Company, Mr George Bambridge, has presented the company's medal to Acting Leading Marine Engineering Apprentice Graham Snow, the top Royal Navy metalwork apprentice in 1992, during a visit by members of the company to HMS Sultan at Gosport. Captain A.D. Ferguson, Captain of HMS Sultan, was present.

## Women priests

## Synod to give clue to final vote

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE intense lobbying over women priests enters a new phase today as the summer meeting of the general synod of the Church of England opens at York University. The first clear indication of how the final decision in November will go is expected in a vote by clergy, bishops and laity.

Advertisements in the church press yesterday put the case for both sides. Each is battling for the souls of the handful of synod members who will determine the outcome.

The synod is preceded this morning by meetings of the convocations, assemblies of bishops and clergy of the provinces of Canterbury and York, and of the house of laity. They will debate the draft legislation on the ordination of women to the priesthood. The measure is almost

certain to gain the simple majorities needed in the convocations and the house of laity to proceed to the final vote, where it needs a two-thirds majority. While at least two-thirds of the bishops and clergy are thought to be in favour, a handful of undecided lay churchmen could swing the November vote either way.

The Movement for the Ordination of Women, in full-page advertisements in *The Church of England Newspaper* and the *Church Times*, claims spiritual and practical benefits in the churches where women are ordained. The advertisement says: "In 1976, when the Episcopal Church in the USA started ordaining women priests, about 1 per cent of churchgoers left in protest. In the years since, congregations have grown by 23 per cent."

Four-page inserts by Women Against the Ordination of Women, in the same church papers, include personal testimonies urging the synod to "leave the men their priesthood" and claiming women cannot be ordained. The government's plan to strengthen religious education through the Education Reform Act is not succeeding in all schools, according to David Paskall, chairman of the National Curriculum Council. Speaking yesterday to the Association of Religious Advisers and Inspectors at Keele University, Mr Paskall said religious education was best planned at local level. "If RE is being marginalised, this reflects a failure on the part of local bodies."

Home regrets, page 5  
Clifford Loughy, page 16

## July 11 ON THIS DAY 1924



The grouping of the railways of Great Britain in the early 1920s and the possibility of national ownership and workers' control were discussed at this NUR congress. James Figgins (1893-1956), later to be the union's general secretary, spoke strongly for the expropriation of the railways without compensation or dividends.

## "BRITISH NATIONAL RAILWAYS." DEBATE BY THE N.U.R.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORK, July 10.

Though the National Union of Railwaymen's Congress attempted to express its mind today on such subjects as railway grouping, national ownership and workers' control, the debate in public at the morning session lacked direction, and was practically abortive. Neither a "Fabian" type of resolution nor a Communist amendment pleased the Congress as a whole, and there was a substantial majority for sending both resolution and amendment to the Standing Orders Committee for redrafting. Even about that procedure some members of the Congress had their doubts.

Meanwhile, the chief interest for the general public in this morning's rather muted improvement society sort of discussion in the indication it gave of the various ideas now moving in the minds of British railwaymen. The Standing Orders Committee, seeking to focus what they believed to be the general opinion, and as it turned out not quite succeeding, put forward the following resolution: "That this Congress, having reviewed the working of the railways since the grouping

into four companies was established, welcomes the same as a step towards the complete unification of the railways under national ownership and joint control by the railway workers."

The Communist amendment ran as follows: "That this congress of practical railwaymen, having experienced the effects of grouping, is fully convinced that the grouping of railways is not in their interests, but is merely a necessary reorganization under private enterprise to conform to post-war economic requirements, and being strongly convinced that not until the railways become common property of the workers control will the workers be emancipated, resolves to work for that end."

The mover of the resolution, Mr. T.J. Gray (Shiloh), a staunch small railway companies had now become four groups of railways, and this development entirely justified the demand of the railwaymen that the railways should be nationally owned, though the motive of the amalgamations had been profit and not the betterment of railway workers and of the whole community. Railway workers did not demand State ownership primarily in their own interests. Their industrial organization could secure them all needful improvements in pay and conditions without the use of any political weapon. They wanted State ownership because they believed they had a right to use their labour and their power in the community's interest and not in the capitalists' interest.

Mr. A.J. Whitlock (Canterbury), in seconding, said that while profit-making existed there could be no peace in the railway or any other industry. Mr. J. Figgins (Glasgow), in moving the amendment, disclosed his disposition as a Communist repudiating national ownership as involving compensation — "a million round our necks for 20 or 30 years" — and demanding "expropriation of the expropriators without compensation or dividends".



# Lawyer forces review of law on clamping

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

THE government is to investigate the activities of private clampers after a barrister found a way through the legal minefield which could help motorists reclaim their cars without paying fines to security firms.

Motoring organisations and MPs have led the outcry over clamping companies which impound cars and demand release fees. Courts in Scotland have ruled it illegal to clamp a car parked on private ground and then to demand a fine. However, there has been no legal precedent in England and Wales, until the case of Nicholas Bowen came to light this week. Now the government wants to clarify the law on clamping.

Mr Bowen, a barrister at Bedford Row Chambers, London, left court in Bournemouth only to discover his car, parked on waste ground, had been clamped. Signs warning of private clamping were either above eye level or near to the ground and hidden by another car, he said.

Mr Bowen said that Michael Raven White, of Freshwater Security, asked for £50 to remove the clamp, but refused a cheque backed with a banker's card. The security firm then warned Mr Bowen that the car would be towed to Christchurch for a further fee of £115, plus £25 a day parking. If the clamping charge was not paid in cash.

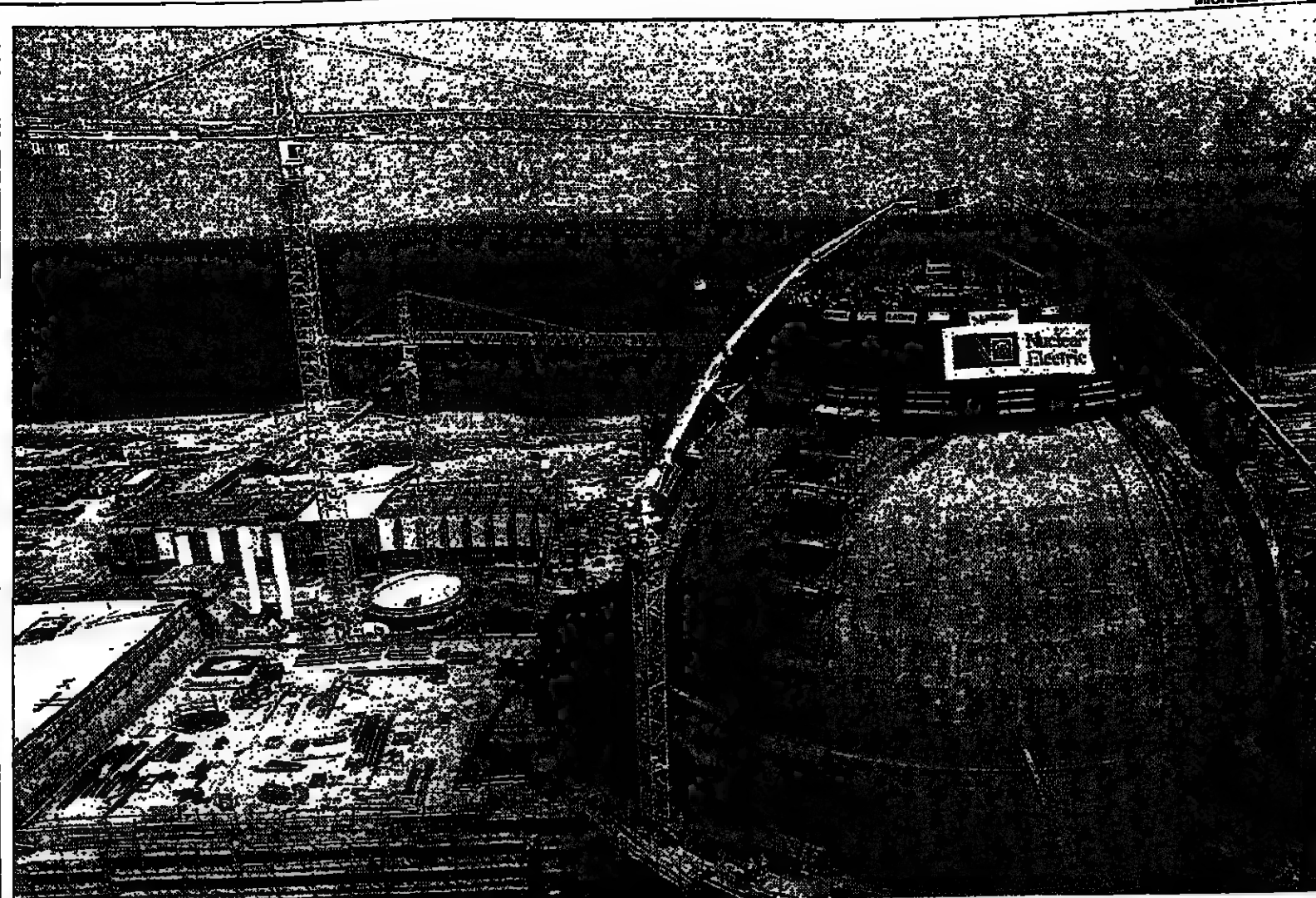
Mr Bowen went back to Bournemouth County Court to procure an order under the

Torts (interference with goods) Act 1977 ordering the immediate release of the car. Mr Bowen said last night: "Under this Act, goods that have been impounded unlawfully can be ordered to be returned straight away. I argued that, because the demand for money was backed up by an immediate threat to tow away my car with a charge, then this was a menace, and therefore unlawful."

Mr White appeared in court before agreeing to release the car without any charge. He could not be contacted for comment last night.

However, the case will be studied by the Automobile Association, which has been searching for a test case which would give motorists a chance to hit back at cases of unfair clamping. The case is also certain to be studied at the transport department after Kenneth Carlisle, the minister for roads, ordered an investigation to clarify the law on clamping.

The government and the police have in the past refused to become entangled in what is considered purely a civil matter in which clamping impounds cars parked on private land. There is no suggestion yet that Mr Bowen's case will provide an answer. The barrister admitted that his knowledge of the law and his determination not to pay the clamping fee led him to go to court. "Anyone could do what I did although they might need a solicitor."



Powerhouse: the vast concrete dome of Sizewell B on the Suffolk coast is one and a quarter times the diameter of St Paul's Cathedral

## Topping out for a giant

By Michael Horsnell

HIGH above the landscape of coastal Suffolk, amid one of the biggest construction sites in the country, a monstrous dome one and a quarter times the diameter of St Paul's Cathedral crowns the £2.03 billion Sizewell B pressurised water reactor.

Yesterday the 72 metre high primary containment building which it caps was topped out when Brian George, the project director, skinned the final crown of concrete. The event marked the culmination of over four years work which has involved almost 100,000 tonnes of concrete. The building has 1 metre thick walls heavily reinforced and laced with pre-stressed cables. Nuclear Electric are building the reactor which is on target for completion in 1994.

The first concrete was laid on July 18, 1988 at the site where 4,200 workers are employed. Sizewell B is expected to be in full commercial production by February 1995.

## Leasing scheme planned for rail

Continued from page 1

British Rail from borrowing on the financial markets to finance leasing agreements, for fear it would undermine government attempts to control public spending.

The white paper proposals, the broad outlines of which were foreshadowed in the Conservative election manifesto, call for BR to be divided into two authorities, one owning the infrastructure and the other operating the services.

BR's freight and parcels divisions will be sold to the private sector, along with commercially viable stations.

Private companies will be able to bid for franchises to run passenger services on BR's tracks, effectively reducing BR to the status of a state-owned track authority.

Because of the new opportunities presented by the opening of the Channel tunnel and the development of new technologies for com-

bined road-rail transport, private sector interest in BR's freight operations could be considerable. Declining receipts from passengers are likely to ensure, however, that private sector interest in BR's passenger services will be limited to a handful of routes which have benefited from new investment in recent years, such as the Thames and Chiltern line between London, Aylesbury, and Oxford.

## West to open Bosnia land corridor

Continued from page 1

who, he said, had promised Russia's support for democratisation, and for Yugoslavia resuming its place in the CSCE when its suspension ends.

Mr Major announced that the frigate HMS Avenger would take part in the naval operation. He denied that Britain was being more cautious than other Western allies, but emphasised the dangers of intervening in rough

terrain controlled by feuding warring lords. Sarajevo could become another Dien Bien Phu, he said. Military intervention could endanger humanitarian relief, as the rival forces would make no distinction between troops ensuring food and medical supplies and others in a widened operation.

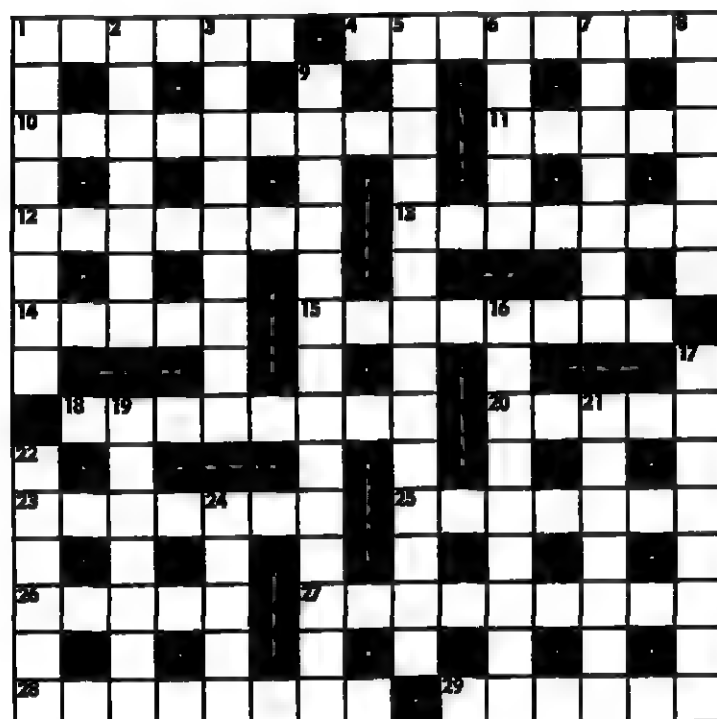
Mr Major said each country would make its own contribution to the UN contribution. Britain had 300 am-

lance men on the ground near Sarajevo already, and the RAF was flying in humanitarian relief. "It is a question of horses for courses."

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, said details of deployment would be worked out next week in Brussels. Overall control of the operation would remain with the UN however.

Frontline hotel, page 14

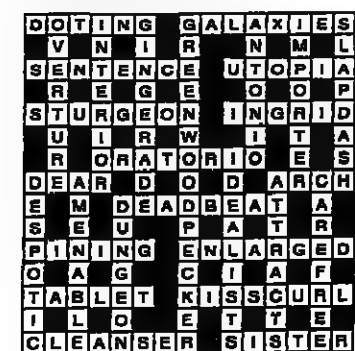
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,968



### ACROSS

- 1 Spoil England? That's not unknown (6)
- 4 A little bit heartless, girl's venial sin (5,3)
- 10 Endlessly try to make watertight — water somehow gets in 'in squall' (9)
- 11 Esau's father is an aircraftman (5)
- 12 A conceited chap ordered about man in a state (3,4)
- 13 Casual worker disinclined to take the lead (7)
- 14 Source of enlightenment to the right church (5)
- 15 Ignorant, short of money — that's not deserved (8)
- 18 Expedition's report (8)
- 20 Jack's first boss, a very large person (5)
- 23 Canded stems when cut are heavenly (7)
- 25 Bant the use of abusive language (7)
- 26 Not for the first time, making a profit (5)
- 27 Located an assemblage of stories (9)
- 28 It helps you to remember to maintain a stock of alcohol (8)
- 29 Muse about amateur in a sport (6)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,967



### ⊕ PARKER

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

### DOWN

- 1 Run down second part and end of scene (8)
- 2 Bury, say, incorporated one, say (7)
- 3 See leather here perish — how unusual (9)
- 5 Order may wait a moment (4,4,6)
- 6 One apprehended by the force initially (5)
- 7 Greenery providing shelter, harbouring a weed (7)
- 8 Foreign money circulates — does copper? (6)
- 9 Cart had no truck with licence — a difficult problem (4,3,2,5)
- 16 Answer to charge about carpenter accepting money once (9)
- 17 Girl holds one record, set up in the country (8)
- 19 One who doesn't appreciate granite building (7)
- 21 Soak is accepted by Doctor X (7)
- 22 American lawyer given obscure material (6)
- 24 Joins the course (5)

Concise Crossword, p16  
Weekend Times

Solution to Puzzle No 18,962



### ⊕ PARKER

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- STRIGULOUS**  
a. Bristly or furrowed  
b. Complaining  
c. Pertaining to the screech-owl
- VIATIC**  
a. White lucky feet  
b. Travelling, on the road  
c. A picnic lunch
- DYSPEMISM**  
a. An unpleasant expression  
b. Discontent with life  
c. Rule by the dark rabble
- RAMAUSIC**  
a. Utilitarian, mechanically contrived  
b. Jocular  
c. Flattering one's wealth

Answers on page 19

## THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 5000 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants, Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Chwyd	715
Majorca	716
W & S Yorks & Wales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Scotland & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheapest rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Circ)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
General & E Midlands	734
M-ways/roads M1-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737

National motorways  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheapest rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY	Sun rises: 9.15 am to 4.58 am	Sun sets: 8.34 pm to 5.08 am
Edinburgh	9.32 am to 4.41 am	Edinburgh 9.32 pm to 4.57 am
Manchester	9.34 pm to 4.59 am	Manchester 9.34 pm to 4.57 am
Penzance	9.30 pm to 5.26 am	Penzance 9.30 pm to 5.27 am

## TOMORROW

London	9.14 pm to 4.59 am	Edinburgh 9.32 pm to 4.41 am
Manchester	9.34 pm to 4.59 am	Manchester 9.34 pm to 4.57 am
Penzance	9.30 pm to 5.26 am	Penzance 9.30 pm to 5.27 am

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: M E Price, South St. North Kelsey, Lincoln; M Kennedy, Belgrave Road, Seaford; Susan J. Bell, Vincent Row, Hampton Hill, Middlesex; V Blackburn, Hale Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire; S Hibbs, Stockton Road, Newport, Gwent.

The day will start dry in eastern parts but thick cloud and rain will spread from the west across the whole country. Some heavy rain is likely, although it may be quite late in the day before the heavier rain reaches southeast England. Later, some western areas, especially Northern Ireland, may brighten up, although there will be showers. Most places will be cool and windy. Outlook: cool, breezy and showery, becoming brighter and drier.

## WINDY WEATHER

MIDDAY: 1-hourly: 0-10 mph; 10-20 mph; 20-30 mph; 30-40 mph; 40-50 mph; 50-60 mph; 60-70 mph; 70-80 mph; 80-90 mph; 90-100 mph; 100-110 mph; 110-120 mph; 120-130 mph; 130-140 mph; 140-150 mph; 150-160 mph; 160-170 mph; 170-180 mph; 180-190 mph; 190-200 mph; 200-210 mph; 210-220 mph; 220-230 mph; 230-240 mph; 240-250 mph; 250-260 mph; 260-270 mph; 270-280 mph; 280-290 mph; 290-300 mph; 300-310 mph; 310-320 mph; 320-330 mph; 330-340 mph; 340-350 mph; 350-360 mph; 360-370 mph; 370-380 mph; 380-390 mph; 390-400 mph; 400-410 mph; 410-420 mph; 420-430 mph; 430-440 mph; 440-450 mph; 450-460 mph; 460-470 mph; 470-480 mph; 480-490 mph; 490-500 mph; 500-510 mph; 510-520 mph; 520-530 mph; 530-540 mph; 540-550 mph; 550-560 mph; 560-570 mph; 570-580 mph; 580-590 mph; 590-600 mph; 600-610 mph; 610-620 mph; 620-630 mph; 630-640 mph; 640-650 mph; 650-660 mph; 660-670 mph; 670-680 mph; 680-690 mph; 690-700 mph; 700-710 mph; 710-720 mph; 720-730 mph; 730-740 mph; 740-750 mph; 750-760 mph; 760-770 mph; 770-780 mph; 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● BUSINESS 21-24,31  
● WEEKEND MONEY 25-30

# BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT  
34-40

## WEEKEND MONEY

### Profile

The new chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers faces the toughest week of his new career next week at the MGN annual meeting. But Sir Robert Clark is on the record as being a firm upholder of the rights of Mirror pensioners. Despite facing a huge potential loss as a member of Lloyd's, he says he never has any sleepless nights. Page 23



### Student fees

Parents who expect their children to go on to further education, should start saving early. The average parental contribution is rising fast as student figures grow and grants decline. Page 27

### Battle for savers

The building societies are struggling to compete with National Savings's new one-year bond, launched this week. The new bond pays 7.7 per cent net on amounts below £20,000. Page 26

### She's knitting her will



Letters page 30

### Pep drawback

Inland Revenue rules are preventing up to 50 per cent of investors from using share exchange schemes to put money into personal equity plans. Joint shareholdings cannot be used to fund Peps as it is not clear from whom the money comes, according to Ann McMeekin, managing director of Framlington Unit Trust Managers. Revenue requirements that Pep managers ensure the money belongs to the applicant are impossible with joint shareholdings. Page 29



### Loads of money

People who suddenly acquire a sum of money can be confused about what to do with it. Building society accounts are not always the best solution, especially for higher rate taxpayers. Page 27

### Abbey search

Abbey National is still trying to trace the owners of shares worth £100 million. Most of the shares are to be sold early next year, but can still be reclaimed for six years after that. Page 28



### Poor surrender

Investors waste hundreds of thousands of pounds through the early surrender of insurance policies that they should never have bought in the first place. Insurers could be penalised. Page 25

## US trade chief agrees enquiry into Airbus sale

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN government authorities are preparing an investigation of the \$3 billion, 100-aircraft deal struck earlier this week between Airbus Industrie and United Airlines in what could spark an international political row over unfair competition.

United's agreement with Airbus to lease 50 A320 aeroplanes, starting next autumn, and take options on 50 more in the mid-1990s, beat an offer from Boeing.

United's success is almost certain to re-ignite American allegations that Airbus won the deal because government subsidies to the four-nation European consortium allowed it to offer much lower prices. James Bryan Jr, president and chief executive officer of Airbus in North America and among the chief architects of the deal, resigned last night, only 48 hours after the contract was announced, and before the financing was completed. Mr Bryan, 51, said in a prepared statement that he was leaving to pursue other interests.

He was appointed Airbus's top salesman in North America in October 1986. His statement said that with the United deal, he considered his job for the company complete. Alan Boyd, US Airbus chairman, has already taken on most of Mr Bryan's duties. Airbus said: "There has been no quarrel and Mr Bryan's departure is totally unrelated to the United-Airbus deal, which, on a daily basis, was conducted by a team of people, but he was our number one North American salesman."

Carla Hills, the US trade

representative, has promised an immediate investigation of the Airbus deal. The US trade department said yesterday: "Although we have no reason to believe there are any irregularities, the details will be examined to see if any illegal subsidies were used in breach of Gatt."

The Airbus spokesman said of the proposed investigation: "I find it very odd that seemingly every time Airbus sells an aeroplane in the US somebody wants to investigate or accuses us of doing something that we shouldn't have done."

Airline executives believe price was a major factor in the deal, although the Airbus jets are technologically more advanced and have a fuel efficiency and range above the rival Boeing 737-400s. Industry sources said Airbus could have cut the price of the aeroplanes up to 30 per cent to get what is considered a breakthrough order in America.

Airbus ousts Boeing as a 14-



Hills: immediate action

year exclusive aircraft supplier to United, which means it now sells to every major American airline.

The A320 usually costs between \$41 million and \$45 million, but the United deal is believed to have cut the average price of the jet to \$31 million. Airbus is also believed to have included a "walk-away" option for the first 50 aeroplanes, allowing United to return them without penalty after a few years.

Neither United nor Airbus in North America would comment on the deal. Boeing said: "We believe we made a very good offer and that our aeroplane has some real advantages in terms of cost of ownership. We are disappointed." Ranged against it with Airbus were Rolls-Royce, the British aero-engine manufacturer, and Pratt & Whitney, of America. GE, the American aero-engine firm, had lined up with Boeing.

United is unlikely to buy the aeroplanes outright, but lease them from Airbus, which will first sell them to the finance arms of cash-rich American food, tobacco and telecommunications companies that can gain a tax advantage from owning aeroplanes.

Under an American-European Community agreement on April 1 this year, government support for aircraft development was capped at between 30 and 35 per cent. The Americans have argued that Britain, France, Germany and Spain, which make up the Airbus consortium, have provided between \$13.5 billion and \$26 billion to finance the company's aircraft.

## DTI seeks local bids for advice centres

BY ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE industry department is to introduce competitive bidding by local business advice organisations in an effort to improve the quality of services available.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, said chambers of commerce and local enterprise agencies were likely to lead development of high street "first stop shops" providing business services.

The 82 Tecs in England and Wales are likely to be left with a co-ordinating role in Mr Heseltine's strategy for DTI service centres in more than 300 towns and cities.

Responsibility for small firms has been transferred from the employment department, which provides most Tec funding, to Mr Heseltine's enlarged DTI. Both Mr Heseltine and Gillian Shephard, employment secretary, denied any disagreement over strategy yesterday. "We are a seamless garment," Mrs Shephard said.

Mr Heseltine told the second national conference of Tec directors, in Birmingham, that business advice centres had to become more professional. "Nowhere near enough" Tecs, chambers of commerce, local enterprise agencies or other support agencies met requirements, he said.

The DTI will spend £40 million next year on services provided by Tecs. "I intend that part of this money should be offered through competitive bidding," Mr Heseltine said. "Winners will be local areas which can most effectively demonstrate a convincing strategy, strong targets, ambitious targets and a high quality of service."



Heseltine: local agencies not meeting needs

## Canary bankers may offer cash for Jubilee line

BY ANGELA MACKAY

CANARY Wharf's bankers are believed to be prepared to make a cash contribution to the Jubilee line extension to help induce the government to relocate 2,500 civil servants at the Docklands development.

Earlier this week, Ernst & Young, Canary Wharf's administrators, made another pitch to the government to try to persuade it to take space in the development. They offered a deal in which the government would buy its own building and Ernst & Young would return the proceeds to Whitehall as a contribution to the Jubilee line.

Alternatively, if the government opted to rent, the administrators said the difference over the ten year lease period between Canary Wharf's rent and the lowest rent offered by its competitors would be paid by Canary Wharf's banks as part payment of the under-ground extension. This amount could be as high as £40 million.

Canary Wharf's rent proposal is unlikely to be the cheapest with Harbour Exchange and East India Dock expected to offer lower terms. Thomas More Square, the Swedish-owned option near Tower Hill, is believed to be well out of the bidding.

Even though Harbour Exchange would probably be the cheapest option, Charter Group, the developer, does not have spare cash to contribute to the rail link.

NCC, Sweden's biggest construction and property investment company which built East India Dock, is in a much better position to offer more than just a cheap rent. East India Dock has about £190 million of capital allowances which NCC could sell on behalf of the government at a discount and then return the cash to Whitehall as a contribution.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, toured all four sites yesterday, ahead of the cabinet meeting next Thursday when the issue is likely to be discussed. The contenders hope for a decision by the end of next week.

Olympia & York Developments, Canary Wharf's ultimate parent, yesterday disclosed the first updated and audited picture of its internal finances showing net losses grew five times last year to US\$1.76 billion. (Philip Robinson writes.)

Olympia & York said it had to write off US\$1.2 billion on property and stock market investments. Even without these accounting charges, O&Y said it would have reported an operating loss of US\$538 million for the 12 months which ended on January 31, 1992, compared with an income of \$172 million a year earlier.

O&Y's Canary Wharf project was carried at cost in the results because of uncertainties about the value of Canary Wharf after it was placed under administration in May. O&Y plans to begin interim financial statements, which will reflect provisions for Canary Wharf, during 1992.

Gerald Greenwald, O&Y's new president said he had no way of quantifying the deterioration of Canary Wharf but said that, if it were measured it would "mean that the £3134 million (£59.2 million) [shareholder deficiency] would grow".

Asked if the Reichmann brothers who founded the international property giant would be willing to give up some of their control in the company, Mr Greenwald said: "The family is quite prepared to be quite flexible on that subject."

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.9195 (+0.0125)  
German mark 2.8725 (-0.0004)  
Exchange index 92.8 (+0.2)  
Bank of England official close (40m)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1903.7 (-10.2)  
FT-SE 100 2490.8 (-7.1)  
New York Dow Jones 3326.78 (+2.70)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18783.72 (-64.94)

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%  
3-month Interbank: 10 1/8-9 1/8%  
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/8-9 1/8%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.21-3.20%  
30-year bonds: 104 1/2-104 1/4\*

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.9224  
£ DM2.8730  
£ Sfr2.6038  
£ FF9.7127  
£ Yen241.08  
C. Index: 92.8  
ECU: 50.710588  
S. D. 50.754343  
C. ECU: 40.2285  
C. S. D. 1.322658  
London Forex market close

## GOLD

London: Flang: AM \$348.75 PM \$348.70  
Close: \$348.20-20.75  
\$181.25-181.75  
New York: Comex \$ 348.95-349.45\*

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$20.00/bbl (\$19.85)

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Investors stay away from MFI share sale

BY MICHAEL TATE

THE MFI Furniture Group share sale has flopped, with less than half of the 137 million shares offered to the public understood to have been taken up. The balance, worth some £85 million at the sale price, has been left with the underwriters.

County NatWest, who handled the flotation of the home furnishings group, would not confirm the number of applications last night. This alone reflected the issuing house's disappointment details of over-subscribed offers are normally published within hours of the closure of the application lists.

Because the offer was underwritten, MFI will still receive

the full £158 million that it sought through the offer for sale. The group already has £472 million that was committed by institutional investors through a placing just over a week ago.

The success of the public offer looked increasingly doubtful as the weakness of the stock market was exacerbated by the failure of two other high-profile share offers in the past two weeks. The Telegraph group and Anglian Group, the double glazing specialist.

Concern now shifts to Taunton Cider, the Dry Blackthorn to Red Rock group, which is seeking £78.5 million, half of it through a public offer for sale next week.

## Deal clears HSBC for London listing

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Stock Exchange has fixed up a last-minute deal with market-making firms to ensure that all the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's shares can be quoted in London and join the FT-SE 100 index as it promised last month.

The exchange's FT-SE 100 steering committee held an emergency meeting yesterday after market-makers threatened not to trade in the Hong Kong dollar-denominated shares of HSBC Holdings, the holding company of the Hongkong Bank.

The committee and James Capel, Hongkong Bank's stockbroker, persuaded six market-makers to quote the shares, and they started trading at 2.30pm and will join

the FT-SE 100 index on Monday. Hongkong Bank, valued at more than £8 billion, is estimated to account for more than 2 per cent of the revised index.

The problems stemmed from HSBC's new split capital base. Its 1.6 billion existing shares are still quoted in Hong Kong dollars. The new shares which it used in its £3.7 billion takeover of Midland Bank are in sterling.

Last month, the Stock Exchange said that all Hongkong Bank's shares would be included in the FT-SE 100 and FT All-Share indices. This position was jeopardised on Thursday when market-making firms said they would not trade the dollar shares.

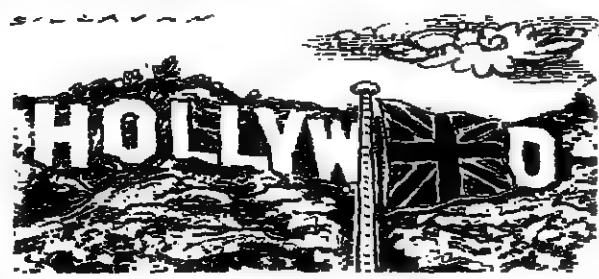
## Carlton goes to Hollywood

BY MARTIN WALLER

MICHAEL Green's Carlton Communications is going where even Rambo or Terminator might fear to tread. It is dipping a toe into the shark-infested waters of Hollywood film production.

Carlton, a media combine best known for its successful bid for the Thames TV franchise, is paying \$15 million for a 10 per cent stake in Savoy Pictures Entertainment, a fund set up five months ago to produce and distribute blockbusters.

Victor Kaufman, once head of Columbia, is chairman and chief executive. Other names include Lewis Korman, Mr Kaufman's associate, and Andrew Vajna, who left Caracol in 1990 after Terminator One and Rambo. Another former Columbia



head, Frank Price, is also a founding shareholder. Other investors include Chicago's Pritzker clan, the French media group Chargeurs and Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian entertainment magnate.

The venture aims to produce about 15 films a year. Carlton owns Technicolor, the film reproduction business, and the work on future Savoy releases will come its way. Carlton also has the

contract to make videos for Home Box Office, Time Warner's home video arm, which has signed a profit-sharing and distribution deal with Savoy.

There remains one huge caveat to Mr Green's bid to take his place in the hall of fame on Sunset Boulevard - the number of British media corpses he will have to step over to get there. British ambitions in American film

and TV have almost always bombed at the financial box office, starting with David Puttnam's short stint as the head of Columbia, and including much-lamented purchases by two British TV contractors, TVS Entertainment and Thames, of American television production companies.

This time will be different, Carlton swears, pointing to the relatively small size of the investment, possible spin-offs and the roster of American film industry talent behind the venture.

"This company is unlike many of the new film funds," said a Carlton spokesman. "This one is controlled and invested in by some of the best names in Hollywood."

Or as Griffin Mill, the animal hero of The Player, might have said: "The best deal ever made"

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Miners' pension plan pays out extra £1bn

**BRITAIN'S** retired and working miners will benefit from a £1 billion payout by the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme. Retired miners will receive an 8 per cent pension rise in addition to increases in line with the RPI.

A surplus of nearly £1.5 billion has been struck because of investment successes in recent years by MPS, whose trustees are representatives from the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, the National Union of Mineworkers and British Coal. Three quarters of MPS investments are in equities, which recovered strongly after the Gulf war. A tenth of the MPS assets of £6.5 billion are in property. More than 70 per cent of the announced surplus is going on benefits for scheme members and pensioners. Contributors will get a 25 per cent credit and British Coal will take an extended holiday.

## Morland final date

GREENE King, the East Anglian brewer, has, at the third closing date of its £101 million hostile offer for Morland & Co, gained acceptances from 46.7 per cent of its target, an advance of 0.3 percentage points since the last close a week ago. The increase is entirely accounted for by purchases made by Greene King in the market. The company has set a final closing date of July 24. Sir Humphrey Prideaux, Morland's chairman, claimed Greene King had "not been entirely frank" with Morland shareholders in the bidder's comparisons of the two companies' respective performances.

## Lonrho sale cleared

THE sale by Lorrho in March of Scottish and Universal Newspapers to Trinity International Holdings, the publisher, for £45 million was cleared yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary. S&UN publishes 23 paid-for and free newspapers in central and southern Scotland. David Snedden, Trinity's chief executive, said he was delighted by the clearance. The acquisition of S&UN represented a key strategic step for Trinity by expanding its core UK regional newspaper interests into Scotland, Mr Snedden said. Trinity now owns 72 titles in Britain and North America.

## Etonbrook to close gap

**ETONBROOK** Properties is proposing to pay ordinary shareholders 25p per share in cash to reduce the gap between its net asset value and current share price. The capital reorganisation proposals are tabled as *Multitrust*, a major shareholder, campaigns to depose Jonathan Harris, chairman, and Keith Moss, a director, at next month's annual meeting. Etonbrook plans to repay £1.2 million of preference shares owned by Palmerston Investment Trust. It said net assets were £17p a share at March 31, down only 1p year-on-year, against yesterday's unchanged share price of 68p.

## Standard sells offshoot

**STANDARD** Chartered, the international banking group, is selling its international portfolio management business to Capital House, the Royal Bank of Scotland's asset management company, thereby boosting Capital House's assets to over £4 billion. The disposal is part of Standard's policy to pull out of businesses where it cannot compete internationally. The portfolio management business was formerly part of Equitor, the bank's financial service division, which will now concentrate its operations on institutional management and custodian services.

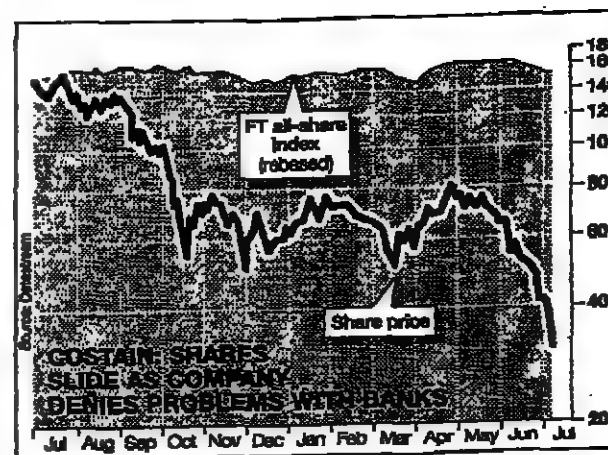
# Falling oil forces BP to year's low

THE shares in BP were slithering towards their low for the year in sight without a buyer in the end and on the back of a falling oil price. The price ended 6p lower at 203½p as market-makers struggled to contain the situation with more than 16 million shares changing hands.

Not even American investors, who have been big buyers of BP in recent months, were prepared to take up stock. City fund managers have been taking a bearish view of the company for some time, convinced that a cut in the dividend is on the cards. The sudden departure last month of Robert Horton, the former chairman, intensified their fears.

The half-year figures later this month are expected to make gloomy reading, with the group reporting a hefty loss. The Americans have, so far, failed to take heed of the warnings from the London market. They have been aggressive buyers of shares in oil

the foreign exchange market and the G7 talks. Government securities fluctuated in narrow limits, closing £1/16 lower at



the longer end of the market where changed. Market-makers struggled to keep even book positions and this result-

trading on Wall Street, helped on in June, as measured by the biggest drop since February 1987. The average rose 12.92 points to 3,337. The index jumped by almost 31 points, and growth shares.

ed in wide price variations. Fisons was a case in point, losing 18p to 189p as fund managers continued reducing

their positions after the group's recent fall from grace. Talk in the market claimed that the shares would open

sharply lower on Monday in the wake of bearish press reports during the weekend. But fund managers have been reducing their holdings at the end of each account.

**Rival SmithKline Beecham**  
A ran into a spot of profit

taking, losing 8p at 904p. The A shares will be split in half on Monday and the units divided by ten, making both classes of share compatible. Earlier this week, brokers like Hoan

Govett were recommending the shares to clients.

Wellcome continued to lose ground, falling 20p to 875p as the group faced up to the forthcoming share sale.

Costain, the construction group, tumbled 8p to 30½p amid whispers in the Square Mile that it was in crisis talks with its banks. Costain has been hard hit by the recession and has seen its profits suffer. But the company moved

quickly to deny the story, claiming that there was no reason to believe that it was having difficulties with its bankers. Preparations for the Australian flotation were

National Westminster Bank eased 3p to 325p as Standard & Poor's, the debt rating agency, cut its rating from AA+ to AA. Last month, it put the group on Creditwatch and downgraded

its rating for rival Barclays Bank to AA. Barclays eased 2p to 320p. HSBC, which has now joined the 100 constituents of the FT-SE index following its acquisition of Midland Bank, ended 20p higher at 341p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Funds told to invest in homes for rent

**BY LINDSAY COOK**  
**MONEY EDITOR**

SIR George Young, the housing minister, has called a meeting of institutional investors later this month to encourage investment in the private rented sector. Insurance companies and pension fund managers will be told of the virtues of providing good quality properties to rent.

The minister told the Council of Mortgage Lenders' annual lunch yesterday that he was anxious to revive the private rented sector. "I don't mean peeling terraced houses, shoddily converted into flats, managed indifferently by an inexperienced landlord," he said. "I mean respectable, institutional funds, invested long term, in good quality, professionally managed accommodation for rent."

A well balanced investment portfolio "should contain accommodation, yielding market rents, underpinned by housing benefit, and perhaps managed by housing associations under the benevolent eye of the Housing Corporation".

Sir George warned that the queue for social housing could grow if those who could afford owner-occupation lost confidence in the housing market. Measures to keep people with arrears in their homes would rescue 55,000 households.

**Temps and Wall Street closing prices have been held over until Monday.**

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

There are huge profits to be made if you are feet of foot. But wendy

and overweight competitors are being pushed aside. Stephen Robin and Adidas plan

to take on the  
American giants,  
Reebok and Nike, and  
bring the Europeans

back into the  
championship race...  
*Business Focus — The*

**Sunday Times tomorrow**

## BRITISH FUNDS

1992				1991				1990				1989				1988				1987				1986				1985				1984				1983				1982				1981				1980				1979				1978				1977				1976				1975				1974				1973				1972				1971				1970				1969				1968				1967				1966				1965				1964				1963				1962				1961				1960				1959				1958				1957				1956				1955				1954				1953				1952				1951				1950				1949				1948				1947				1946				1945				1944				1943				1942				1941				1940				1939				1938				1937				1936				1935				1934				1933				1932				1931				1930				1929				1928				1927				1926				1925				1924				1923				1922				1921				1920				1919				1918				1917				1916				1915				1914				1913				1912				1911				1910				1909				1908				1907				1906				1905				1904				1903				1902				1901				1900				1899				1898				1897				1896				1895				1894				1893				1892				1891				1890				1889				1888				1887				1886				1885				1884				1883				1882				1881				1880				1879				1878				1877				1876				1875				1874				1873				1872				1871				1870				1869				1868				1867				1866				1865				1864				1863				1862				1861				1860				1859				1858				1857				1856				1855				1854				1853				1852				1851				1850				1849				1848				1847				1846				1845				1844				1843				1842				1841				1840				1839				1838				1837				1836				1835				1834				1833				1832				1831				1830				1829				1828				1827				1826				1825				1824				1823				1822				1821				1820				1819				1818				1817				1816				1815				1814				1813				1812				1811				1810				1809				1808				1807				1806				1805				1804				1803				1802				1801				1800				1799				1798				1797				1796				1795				1794				1793				1792				1791				1790				1789				1788				1787				1786				1785				1784				1783				1782				1781				1780				1779				1778				1777				1776				1775				1774				1773				1772				1771				1770				1769				1768				1767				1766				1765				1764				1763				1762				1761				1760				1759				1758				1757				1756				1755				1754				1753				1752				1751				1750				1749				1748				1747				1746				1745				1744				1743				1742				1741				1740				1739				1738				1737				1736				1735				1734				1733				1732				1731				1730				1729				1728				1727				1726				1725				1724				1723				1722				1721				1720				1719				1718				1717				1716				1715				1714				1713				1712				1711				1710				1709				1708				1707				1706				1705				1704				1703				1702				1701				1700				1699				1698				1697				1696				1695				1694				1693				1692				1691				1690				1689				1688				1687				1686				1685				1684				1683				1682				1681				1680				1679			
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## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

PROFILE 23

## BUSINESS PROFILE: Sir Robert Clark

## The Mirror finds a cool head in adversity

The man drafted in to clear Maxwell's wreckage is adept at handling people and always polite, says Carol Leonard

Everything is set for the annual meeting of Mirror Group Newspapers on Thursday. The halls have been booked, the microphones tested and the answers to the most obvious and difficult questions prepared so that they can be displayed, pre-emptively, on a large screen.

Permission has also been sought from the Stock Exchange, and granted, for the company's shares to be re-listed the very next day.

The annual meeting itself remains the final hurdle in MGN's rehabilitation. Up to 3,500 shareholders and pensioners — not to mention attendant journalists and television cameras — are expected to turn up and, with the question of the missing £450 million still unresolved, the meeting, if left to its own devices, could prove heated.

Nothing, however, that the pensioners can say or do will make

MGN's new chairman, Sir Robert Clark, lose his cool. He never loses it. "Perhaps once in ten years," he concedes. "I'm reasonably laid back, I'm quite good at keeping the temperature down. I don't find it difficult to deal with difficult people or situations. I don't have to face everything head on. I suppose I'm the voice of the reasonable man." He laughs self-consciously. "I do not shout and scream."

Clark, aged 68, and a non-executive director of MGN since April last year, found himself propelled into the hot seat a fortnight ago. It is not a job he would have sought. "I did not volunteer, the banks approached me," he says. "My first reaction was to think, 'On God, that looks like hard work.' I told them I would only do it if I got total support from other members of the board, the banks and the administrators."

As Clark awaited their assurances he did not discuss the proposal with anyone. Not even his wife. He simply informed her of his decision once he had made it. "I do tend to keep my own counsel and I don't ever discuss business with my wife. That's because I don't see why

she should be bored." The one friend he did talk to "about everything", a partner at Slaughter & May, died five years ago. "We used to go to the pub together every weekend."

As a non-executive director, Clark had had first-hand experience of Maxwell's final months. He knew what he would be letting himself in for. "It's all very well to say I could have resigned and walked away but there weren't exactly a lot of fellows queuing up to do this job. If we had all walked away, no one else would have done it and the only way the pensioners will really suffer is if this business does not continue. My sole objective is to keep this company going and to utilise its assets. The *Daily Mirror* is basically a good company. It makes a lot of money. There aren't many companies that can stand the stealing of £450 million and survive, and then go on to make £90 million in operating profits."

Since November, Clark says, he and Alan Clements, the new finance director, ex-ICI, "have practically lived at the Mirror building" and although he does not yet have a successor in his sights, he sees his role as that of a caretaker. "I would like to do it for six to 12 months. We've got a difficult time ahead of us but once we get through that I hope someone else will come along."

He plans to retire from his other, non-executive directorships — at Shell, Alfred McAlpine, Vodafone, the deputy chairmanship of SmithKline Beecham and the chairmanship of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School — when he reaches the age of 70.

Clark was among the non-executive directors who raised the alarm about the "huge sums" Maxwell had transferred into American investment banks. "It struck me as strange but at first I thought he just wanted to get the extra half per cent interest, he was greedy like that," Clark insisted on a board meeting so that Maxwell could explain himself. "Maxwell seemed quite relaxed. He said okay, we'll have a board meeting



Conciliator: even the angriest Mirror pensioner is unlikely to ruffle Sir Robert

next week, when I get back. But of course he was dead by then."

Clark's association with Maxwell dates back many years. Their paths had first crossed in 1961, the year Clark gave up a partnership at Slaughter & May — "I was never a very good lawyer. I'm not a scholastic chap, I wanted to be instructing rather than advising" — to become head of corporate finance at Philip Hill, Higginson, Erlangers, the forerunner of Hill Samuel, the merchant bank. Clark went on to become chairman of Hill Samuel for 13 years, but it was during his corporate finance days — a job, he adds, which he enjoyed more than any other — that he first encountered Maxwell. "We acted for British Printing Corporation when Maxwell took it over. We raised the money and worked with him. I got to know him quite well. He was a buccaner, but he was straight. And he never did anything I asked him or advised him not to do. He always wanted to do

things that were silly rather than anything else. And he liked people to stand up to him. He only walked all over you if you didn't. He never bullied or insulted me. And none of us had any idea that he had done anything wrong, otherwise we would have done something about it. Journalists — especially those from the *Mirror*, we get shot in the foot by our own people far more than anybody else — often say, but you must have known; we knew. All I can say is that we jolly well didn't know and if they knew, why didn't they do something about it? I think by the end his mind had gone — he must have had that megalomania disease because it would have been obvious that eventually he would get found out."

Megalomania is not a disease ever likely to afflict Clark. Although a similarly large man, 6ft 4in tall — "I find it very awkward at Covent Garden. I shrink down into my seat as far as possible but there is usually a gasp from the row behind when

they see how tall I am" — he could not be more different from his predecessor. His complexion is as fair as Maxwell's was dark, his eyes cool blue and his demeanour unfailingly courteous. He pours the coffee — with a slightly shaky hand — opens and closes the door when *The Times* photographer arrives and departs, and blushes whenever he says anything that could be construed as smug or self-congratulatory.

"I'm very easy to work for, fairly relaxed, and I'm a decentraliser. A delegator. I like people to get on and do it and only come to me if they've got a problem. But I don't like surprises. I like to be told in good time when something goes wrong." He is as polite to office messengers as he is to fellow directors. "They all know me and I know most of them. I've never forgotten that I was an ordinary seaman once. I get very annoyed when people assume that I was born with a silver spoon in my

mouth. That is wrong. I owe everything to my father. He did two things with his life, he educated me and my brother, and for that I will be eternally grateful."

Clark's childhood home was a semi-detached house in Highgate, north London. His mother and his father, an engineering salesman, "lived fairly frugally" to pay fees for Highgate School. Clark, the younger son, shone in both the classroom and on the sports field — he was captain of cricket, football and head boy — but his university education at King's College, Cambridge, ended after a year because of the war.

His war years, in the Royal Navy, were spent largely in northern Italy with the Special Operations Executive. He was colour blind — "the chap behind me in the medical told me which colours to say when they held up the various boards" — and his disability meant that he was banned from active service at sea. Instead, he was despatched in a small boat to reconnoitre behind enemy lines. He then volunteered to be parachuted into northern Italy to work alongside the partisan forces. "Our main objective was to stop the partisans fighting each other and fight the Germans instead. I owe a huge debt to one particular petty officer in the Navy, he taught me tidiness, obedience and discipline. It was quite a shock going from a minor public school to the Navy." It was in Italy that he met his wife Marjorie, the mother of his three children — Tim, aged 41, also a partner with Slaughter & May, William and Catherine. Marjorie was his wireless operator.

"She is very different to me," Clark says. "If she doesn't think something is quite right, she says so. She is very direct. I tend to be more diplomatic, I suppose." Although ever tactful, he says he will not socialise with people he does not like. He is also, he adds, shy, and hates cocktail parties — "I usually head straight for the exit. I am not a loner but I am quite happy on my own. I don't need other people."

Home is now a five-bedroomed, Lutens-designed property in Godalming, Surrey, with 12 acres of Gertrude Jekyll garden, worth £1.5 million. Clark also collects 18th century first edition travel books, but he is not materialistic. "I have not made that much money, I

have always been a salaried employee, but I have never moved for money." This outlook is probably just as well, since he is, he reveals, a name at Lloyd's and faces losses that could run to hundreds of thousands of pounds. "If we have to sell the house we will," he says. He is not, however, a worrier and says he has never had a sleepless night. "In fact, the only time I couldn't control Maxwell was between the hours of midnight and 5 am, when I was asleep." Despite Lloyd's, Clark regards himself as having been lucky; possibly his only regret is that his father died before he got his knighthood. "He was a very snobbish chap, a bit like my brother," Clark recalls. "I'm more like my mother." His mother was, he says, "the kindest person you could ever meet. She never said a nasty word about anybody. I don't mean that I'm quite like that, but she knew how to get on with people and I seem to be good at that, too."

Lord Keith, Clark's predecessor as chairman of Hill Samuel, confirms that ability. "He is universally liked, very conscientious, kind and generous and he does not like doing or saying anything unpleasant. It also means that he is rather a willing horse —

he does tend to get put upon." So unmaterialistic is he, that when Keith learned that he had accepted the MGN job he exclaimed: "I hope to God they are paying you well." Clark replied: "I really don't know."

That's typical of Clark. "He would be the last person to ask what the fee was. With most people, it's the first thing they want to know."

Some of his other former colleagues would say that Clark's Achilles' heel is that he is too nice, that he always sees the best in people, that he finds it almost impossible to sack people and that he also finds it difficult to say no.

Clark is aware that some people misinterpret his quiet, courteous manner. "Some people always mistake politeness for weakness, and conversely, they think that rudeness is a sign of strength. That is a terrible mistake," he says. On the rare occasions when he has been on the receiving end of abuse from business associates, he has not, he says, fought back. "I will just leave the meeting and wait for them to get in touch. If they don't, then so be it. They are then love-it down and no, I never forget."

**I'm a delegator. I like people to get on and do it and only come to me if they've got a problem'**

**'I don't find it hard to deal with difficult people. I suppose I'm the voice of the reasonable man'**

Matthew Bond

## Tailender Norman shows why his place at No 11 is safe... for now

THE rowing may be over at Henley, but for the rest of Britain it looks like the rowing may have only just begun. From clubland to the cricket pitch, discord is the order of the day. So much for summer being a time of easy living.

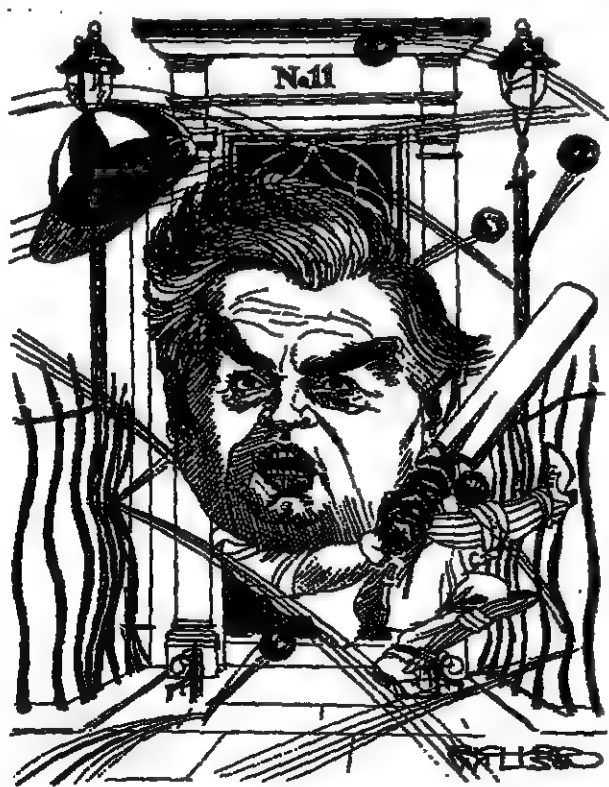
First off, of course, was the extraordinary result of that ballot — the calling of which was supposed to defuse an increasingly acrimonious battle of the sexes but the result of which had precisely the opposite effect.

For by an overwhelming four-to-one majority the women of Britain voted against becoming members of the Recreation, that long standing bastion of economic clubland. The result was a triumph for the no, no, no faction which argued successfully that the Recreation was a male-dominated anachronism, that had long outlived any usefulness it might have once had.

The horrendously complex rules of the club, they argued, had been drawn up by men and were so impenetrable that even an emergency meeting of the seven-strong, all male committee had failed to come up with a way of improving the club's perennially ailing finances.

Audacious to see responsibility for the club's problems shouldered by as many as possible, the yes-group responded by pointing out that at least one woman had been involved in the inception. The noes, however, countered by arguing that if the woman had listened to her intuition — political or female — rather than the chorus of male advice the whole ghastly mess could have been avoided in the first place.

Although most of the pre-ballot debate and argument was of a high standard, a small but chic group of women is believed to have voted not simply through dread of having to wear the infamous Recreation tie, a particularly blinding, zig-zag stripe. Club historians are split on whether the downward diagonal of the stripe



originally echoes corporate profit records, house prices or the value of sterling.

Following the historic vote, the leaders of the vote-no faction are already looking for premises to house a new club, but are divided on the name — the Recreation or Codeless. Membership will be open to both sexes but not, sadly, to Germans.

But while bad blood has been flowing freely on the streets of clubland, the dispute pales into insignificance compared to the scenes that have disgraced the game of cricket and which provided the ugliest of conclusions to the third test in the England v Rest of the World, "Economic Ashes" series.

The controversy centres on the clearly intimidatory bowling meted out to England tailender, Somerset Norman, who one expert described this week as "probably the worst number 11 in the game". The fact that he survived the

battering and eventually carried his bat was a triumph of tenacity over technique.

But what the hapless Norman went through before reaching the pavilion was a sight that shamed the noble game. First off he failed to pick up a cruel Italian goody, delivered from the safety of a rest day, but pitching mid-Monday morning and middle and off. Faced with a bewildering one point rise in the Italian discount rate, Norman prodded blindly forward and was lucky to survive an appeal for caught out.

The next delivery was no kinder, an Australian bouncer that threatened to remove his thickly helmeted head. Coming in off an alarming rate-cut run-up, the Australian reserve bank let go with a 0.75 per cent cut in its cash rate to just 5.75 per cent, pitching it a good 12.25 points short of a length. In his unsuccessful hurry to smash such thoughts out of the

ground, Norman failed to hear the "no-ball" called for an illegal 13th rate cut in one recession.

The third delivery had Norman bamboozled again, with the German top-spinner bouncing temptingly high on talk that the Bundesbank's next interest rate move might be up rather than down. In a red-blooded but mistimed attempt to bury the ball in the bowler's midriff, Norman was fortunate not to be caught by the ever-vigilant Sterling, fielding in his specialist position, the slips.

Next-up was a vicious ball, ironically delivered by the former England captain now playing for the Rest of the World because of a five year ban imposed by the MCC (Major not Marylebone) 18 months ago and ratified by the electorate in April. Dug in very short, the call for far lower interest rates crashed sickeningly into Norman's helmet. The bowler's protest that Norman had deviated an interest rate cut went unheeded by a furious umpire, who called the no-ball and then angrily flung the handbag back to the bowler.

Two deliveries left and eight runs required to keep the series alive. The odds looked stacked against Norman as a fast variation of the chinaman, dubbed the Whiteball mandarin and timed by the radar gun at 30 per cent, whizzed its way down the pitch. Crack! Four! The crowd cheered. Good old Norman had knocked it for 4 per cent. Unbelievable!

Everything hinged on the last ball, which cunningly ballooned its way towards the waiting batsman. It seemed to hang in the air for ever as slowly — very slowly — descended. The crowd waited — would Norman simply knock it back up for the simplest of electoral catches, or would he hit the 4.1 runs required. Crack! The crowd roared — 3.9 runs. Hurrah!

He may be black-balled in the Recovery, but guess who is first on the team list for the fourth test?

up to

# 10.45%

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£10,000-£24,999	Gross % 10.30%	Net % 7.33%	9.85%
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## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check the square on the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	AAH	Industrial	
2	Br Airways	Transport	
3	Keleworth Ben	Banking	
4	Tate & Lyle	Food	
5	Five Air Dev	Drugs/Pharm	
6	Guinness	Breweries	
7	Kellogg	Food	
8	Domino	Food	
9	Westpac	Banking	
10	Nile	Electrical	
11	Hidson	Chemicals	
12	Cardo Eng	Industrial	
13	Brinell	Newspaper/Pub	
14	Bunfield	Electrical	
15	Rea	Breweries	
16	Perkins Food	Food	
17	Sanderson Elec	Industrial	
18	Powergen	Industrial	
19	Avonmore	Property	
20	Nat Am Bk	Banking	
21	Coast	Food	
22	Hardy O & O	Oil, Gas	
23	Nim Foods	Food	
24	TI	Industrial	
25	Dunhill	Drugs/Pharm	
26	Abbey Nil	Banking	
27	Broken Hill	Industrial	
28	Atwoods	Building/Rd	
29	Permos	Drugs/Pharm	
30	Smith Ind	Industrial	
31	Weston Water	Water	
32	Barr (AG)	Food	
33	Grind Mtr	Breweries	
34	Whitbread 'A'	Breweries	
35	THORN EM	Electrical	
36	Standard Chn	Banking	
37	Amendip	Industrial	
38	The Pensions Gp	Leisure	
39	Sison Eng	Industrial	
40	Finn Tech	Electrical	
41	Carlson Comm	Leisure	
42	Br Vis	Industrial	
43	Electroncomp	Electrical	
44	McAlpine (A)	Building/Rd	

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Please take into account any minus signs

### Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

Four readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr P. Hobson, of Southampton; Mr P. Brown, of London; Mr R. House, of Middlesbrough; and Mrs D. Coker, of Runcorn, each receive £500.

1992 High Low Company Price Price Net Yld % P/E

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## Shares suffer minor losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 29. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day July 13. Settlement day July 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Price Net Yld % P/E

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## WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## Halifax urges foolish spending

Building societies would not be happy if they were all stereotyped as being insensitive, behind the times, pushers of irresponsible loans for frivolous purposes. Yet the largest society is quite happy to insult at least half of its potential customers and encourage the rest into debt with an advertisement that has no place today.

"How You Spend Your Secured Loan is Entirely Up To Your Wife" shouts the headline above a photograph of a woman of indeterminate years smirking behind the wheel of a sports car. She appears to be a throwback to the Fifties, as does the thinking behind the text.

The Halifax adspend continues to extol the virtues of the loans and the extravagance of women. Men, poor loves, may hanker after a Harley Davidson, want to try hang-gliding or to visit the rainforest of South America, but it will be the wife who decides how any loan will be spent.

Worse, by addressing the message to men, the advertisement appears tacitly to dismiss women's claims to be taken seriously by financial

institutions. The old dragon may appear to have her claws firmly clamped round the purse strings, but it is her mate whom the Halifax invites to apply for the loan.

There is no need to worry whether the happy couple have an account or mortgage with the Halifax already. This offer is open to all comers, so long as they own a home. They can borrow £3,000 to £15,000 and spend it on anything from the car of the year to the holiday of a lifetime.

What the Halifax does not explain in the full-page advertisement is that anyone who takes out a loan will be paying for the holiday for at least three years and possibly for the next 25 years. Nor does it give the interest rate for the loans.

Anyone who telephones the free number to ask for more information will be refused information on how much the loans cost or whether the rate is fixed at the outset or will fall



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

with interest rates in general. Potential customers are told that they will have to visit a branch to find out. The interest rate on the secured loans is 1.35 per cent a month or an annual percentage rate of 17.4 per cent. This is 6 percentage points higher than its base mortgage rate and 8 points higher than the discounted rate for first time buyers.

Anyone considering taking out a loan to cheer themselves up as the recession drags on should read the health warning over and over again. If they cannot keep up the payments their home could be at risk. The

number of people who lose their homes because of additional secured loans is not given by the Council of Mortgage Lenders in its statistics. However, such loans were one of the stumbling blocks for the mortgage rescue schemes, especially if the loans were taken with organisations other than the first lender.

While homeowners are encouraged to secure loans on their homes for self-indulgent purchases, lenders cannot continue to claim that they are responsible lenders. They may claim that the advertisement is intended to be taken lightly,

a little like a mother-in-law joke we might suppose. The only problem with this joke is that it could prove expensive for borrowers.

## Fraud fighters

Credit card companies will meet next week to try to agree a way to stop fraudsters from ripping off shops and other customers by using their card numbers to order goods.

Weekend Money last week highlighted the problem that has developed since some card providers decided they would issue both Access and Visa cards. The card providers will not verify addresses of their customers to rival organisations, which means that retailers cannot check they are not being defrauded before they send off a mail or telephone order. It is the shops that lose the

money when fraudsters pick up details from innocent cardholders and use them to place such orders.

Next week the credit card companies who are members of the Plastic Fraud Prevention Forum hope to find a solution that will not leave them open to criticisms of breaching customer confidentiality by swapping addresses. The Visa and Access networks will be asked to set up an address verification service. This will allow retailers to ring up and ask if the holder of the card lives at 9, Acacia Gardens, Surbiton. If the answer is yes, the retailer will know it can send the goods. If it is no, the real address will not be given and a fraud will have been prevented.

Banks say their losses are not large from this particular fraud. However, retailers are having to restrict the range of cards they will accept for telephone or mail orders for fear of sending an expensive item to an address and receiving no payment for it. Credit card customers must be vigilant and check their bills. The banks will keep on discussing the problem "at the highest level".

Companies worried about growing disillusionment

## Premature cashing in of insurance policies costs holders millions

Lindsay Cook  
reports on the  
insurers' efforts  
to find out what  
is going wrong.

HUNDREDS of thousands of insurance policies are surrendered every year, wasting hundreds of millions of pounds for their investors. Brokers can also be forced to pay back part of the commission they earned on the sale if a policy is cashed in within two years.

In addition, life companies whose costs are concentrated on setting up a policy find policies that are surrendered early are uneconomic.

The insurance companies are also becoming concerned about large numbers of people being disenchanted with life policies because of the poor payout they get when they cash in a policy early.

The Securities and Investments Board commissioned a survey last year into early terminations of policies. This showed that between 23 and 37 per cent were surrendered in the first two years.

Many of the investors would have got nothing back and others only a fraction of the amount they had paid in premiums. The SIB is concerned that too many people are being sold the wrong investment products if between a quarter and third of people taking out 10, 15 and 25-year policies cash them in within two years. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation says that companies with high early surrenders might be asked to bear a greater degree of the cost in the future rather than most of it coming from the investors.

Now insurance companies are trying to find out what is going wrong. Commercial Union, Eagle Star, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, Legal & General, Norwich Union, Prudential, Royal Life and Sun Alliance published findings of joint research this week.

In a survey of 7,500 of their customers who had cancelled policies recently, mostly in a four-month period, 68 per cent gave a change of circumstances as the reason for surrendering. Others cited poor service or dissatisfaction with the product or said they had been advised to cancel the



policy by a financial adviser. Most had cashed in within two years of taking out the policy. Only 53 per cent of the people recalled being offered any alternative to surrender and almost 40 per cent said that they had not been told of the financial penalties of lapsing their policies when they took them out. However, almost three-quarters said the surrender value they received was as much as they expected or better. The same proportion said they were likely to deal with the same company again. Of those who cancelled policies because they could no longer afford the premiums, a large number were in the 18 to 24 age group. Some of the companies who took part in the survey said they were discouraging young people without dependants or mortgages from applying for long-term policies.

This prevents them from buying an inappropriate policy when they are young and

The SIB is concerned that too many people are being sold the wrong products

then regretting it later. A typical case detailed in the survey was someone who took out a policy when they were single and then finding it did not suit their needs when they were married with young children. Usually the cheapest form of insurance, term insurance, is best suited to young families where cash is limited. This only pays out if the policyholder dies during its term and has no surrender value if it is cancelled. Many large companies admit that fewer than half the policies they sell reach maturity. Even in the 24th year of a 25-year

policy there can be a substantial loss suffered by people cashing in their policies early.

Payouts after 24 years can be less than half the full maturity value because the terminal bonus is lost.

Weekend Money surveyed the nine companies involved in this week's report, plus six others, to find out how many of the customers sold 25-year

endowments receive the terminal bonus. Of the 15, only three claimed that more than 50 per cent of its 25-year endowments reach maturity. Friends Provident said 69 per cent of policies due to mature last year had done so, Scottish Amicable estimated the figure at 60 to 65 per cent and Scottish Widows said 60 per cent had matured last year. GRE estimated that 40 to 50 per cent matured. General Accident Life and Prudential said 40 per cent stayed the course and NU estimated it at 35 to 40 per cent. Many of the companies said they could not work out what proportion of policies matured, nor could they say how many customers cashed in policies within two years.

GRE estimated that 20 to 25 per cent of endowments were surrendered before two years were completed. Prudential put the figure at one policy in five cancelled in the period. NU estimated it lost 15 per cent of all endowment policies then. Scottish Amicable said that surrenders under two years ran at 10 per cent during the past decade. GA Life put the figure at 10 per cent, as did Standard Life. Scottish Widows only lost 6 per cent in the first two years.

life assurance premium relief whereas new ones do not have any.

The ABI warns policyholders: "Any surrender in the early years of the policy will almost certainly mean you will get back a great deal less than the premiums you have paid; very often nothing at all will be payable if you surrender the policy within the first year or so."

Under the Financial Services Act information on the surrender value at the end of the first five years should be given to the investor at the point of sale.

Mike Jones, chief executive of the ABI, said: "The recession has forced many people to look at every aspect of their finances and although a family may need extra money or are finding it difficult to carry on paying premiums, surrendering a life insurance policy is not usually advisable or the best option. This leaflet will help policyholders come to the right decision about continuing with their policies."



Jones: helpful hints

another usually involves the investor in a loss. The broker suggesting such a move is also likely to be contravening regulations under the Financial Services Act. Policies issued before March 14, 1984, still have

## Selling a plan can raise more than surrender

SELLING a policy is an alternative to surrendering it for a growing number of people. About £50 million of policies change hands in this way each year and that is likely to double. Four years ago the market was worth about £5 million (Lindsay Cook writes).

Longest in the market is Foster & Cranfield, an auctioneer, established in 1843. It has monthly sales at the Connaught Rooms in London. On Thursday, 130 endowment policies will be on offer. They will sell for an average 30 to 35 per cent more than the surrender value offered by the insurance company.

Last month, two sold for almost double the surrender value. A 20-year Clerical Medical policy taken out in 1981 had a surrender value of £2,900 but was sold for £5,650. A Sun Life of Canada policy, which matures next year, had a surrender value of £4,400 and sold for £8,600.

Guy Enriquez, auctioneer, said that to be suitable for auction, a policy usually needed to have been running for a quarter of its term. Before that, the sale price was unlikely to be much more than the surrender value.

The firm sells some policies with surrender values as low as £1,000. Typically, they have higher surrender values and more popular in the sales are those in the £5,000 to £15,000

range. To be listed in the sale costs £50 and Foster & Cranfield charges sellers a third of any excess over the surrender value. If the policy does not sell, the £50 is refunded, and the policyholder still has the option of surrendering. Mr Enriquez said the reasons for sales varied from hardship to reorganising of investments to make them more tax efficient. It usually takes less than a month to get a policy included in a sale if the seller has all the information needed.

There are seven members of the association of policy market makers. Christopher Dobie, its chairman and a director of Beale Dobie, estimates that the market is worth £50 million a year. The launch of an investment trust by Kleinwort Benson, to invest in second-hand policies, could, together with other planned funds, boost the market to £100 million.

Beale Dobie, set up two years ago, buys policies from individuals and then sells them on. These usually have a

surrender value of £2,000 or more and have run for at least five years or a third of the lifetime of the policy. They should also mature within 15 years.

The firm publishes a fortnightly list and currently finds that the greatest demand is for policies due to mature in 1998-9. The Kleinwort Benson Policy Trust is to invest in policies maturing after 2002.

On average, policyholders receive 12 per cent more than the surrender value and have no commission or fees to pay. Mr Dobie said that, in recent months, clients were being forced to sell policies because of pressure from the banks to fund their businesses. The policyholders could generally borrow 80 per cent of the surrender value from the insurance company to inject into their business. By selling, they could raise more cash and do it quickly. Surrenders could take six to eight weeks. Beale Dobie can normally complete within three weeks. It is writing to 10,000

independent financial advisers pointing out that they can offer sale of policies as an alternative to surrender for clients in financial difficulties. Mr Dobie estimates that 1,000 policies a week are being surrendered when more might be gained by selling.

Some of the Beale Dobie clients are Lloyd's names seeking money to pay off losses. This week, the firm was asked to sell a policy with a surrender value of £970,000.

Policy Network will usually take on policies with a surrender value of £1,000 if they have run for four to six years already. If it is a short-dated policy it might consider a lower surrender value. The firm charges up to 12.5 per cent for legal fees and arranging the sale. This usually takes three weeks.

Policy Portfolio buys policies with surrender values from £1,000. It usually takes three to four weeks from the initial contact. The firm pays intermediaries 3 per cent of the sale price for introducing the business. This is taken into account when the price is fixed. Beale Dobie, 3 The Friars, Friars Lane, Malden, Essex, CM9 6AE; H.E. Foster & Cranfield, 20 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NQ; Policy Network, 177 Kensington High Street, London W8 6SH; Policy Portfolio, Wellington House, 270 Watford Way, London NW4 4UL.

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Mortgage rates may rise if funds flow out of societies

## National Savings targets traditional investors

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

NATIONAL Savings took on building societies this week with the launch of a one-year bond paying a guaranteed rate of interest for 12 months. The First Option bond is aimed at basic rate taxpayers, who are traditional building society savers. If the account persuades large numbers of customers to move to National Savings, building societies have given warning that mortgage rates may have to rise as a result.

The bond pays 7.75 per cent (10.34 per cent gross) on £1,000 to £9,999. The sum of £20,000 or more earns the higher rate of 8.05 per cent net (10.74 per cent gross).

The Fixed Interest Rate Savings Tax-paid (First) bond was announced in the Budget as part of the government's funding of its £28 billion public sector borrowing requirement. It has already spawned rival accounts from building societies.

National Savings hopes that investors who are given the option to reinvest at the end of the year will do so, said David Butler, its director.

Building societies tend to offer accounts that pay a guaranteed amount above their variable rates for other ac-



Option for savers: David Butler, director of NS

counts. This reduces the risk of societies making a loss on accounts when they lend on the money in the form of mortgages.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich, said: "The government is aware that, if we had to raise investment rates to compete, we would have to flow in a major way into the National Savings First Option Bond, then mortgage rates would inevitably rise."

The Woolwich has a one-year account that guarantees

to pay at least 5 per cent more than the society's share rate. The premium investment plus 2 account is currently paying 7.31 per cent (9.75 per cent gross) on the minimum investment of £10,000. On £25,000 plus it pays 7.65 per cent (10.2 per cent) and 7.88 per cent (10.5 per cent) on £50,000. No withdrawals can be made during the year. The society's share rate is currently 2.3 per cent (3.1 per cent gross). The Halifax launched a range of accounts paying a

guaranteed rate of interest in May. Only the six-month account is competitive with the National Savings bond. It pays 7.125 per cent net (9.5 per cent gross) on £2,000 to £9,999. Above £10,000 it pays 7.5 per cent (10 per cent gross). The 12-month account from the largest society pays 6.938 per cent net (9.25 per cent gross) on £2,000. This increases to 7.125 per cent net (9.5 per cent gross) over £10,000.

No withdrawals can be made from the Halifax account. National Savings will allow withdrawals from the bond but no interest is earned on the money if it is withdrawn before the year is completed. The Halifax and other building society and bank accounts can pay interest gross to non-taxpayers. National Savings cannot do this but non-taxpayers can claim back any tax deducted. Higher rate taxpayers have to pay additional tax.

National Savings attracted a net inflow of £1.5 billion in the first three months of the financial year. It expects this to be substantially boosted by the bond for basic rate taxpayers.

Coupons are available in newspaper advertisements or by telephoning 0800 881188. They will be in post offices from July 27.

## Revenue seeks better policing of accounts

BANKS and building societies have been reminded by the Inland Revenue that they must police accounts held by foreign nationals living abroad more carefully or face the risk of paying tax for their savers and interest on the accounts as well (Lindsay Cook writes).

The accounts belong to people who are non ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes, and can therefore have interest paid gross. If the account holders live in Britain, tax would have to be deducted, unless they were non-taxpayers.

The investors have to sign a declaration when they open the account saying that they are not ordinarily resident in this country and therefore not due to pay

tax in Britain. They are also expected to write to the bank if their residence status changes for tax purposes. Now banks are being asked to be more vigilant when checking whether any of their customers are, in fact, resident in Britain. They can do this by paying for an external audit of these accounts. If they do not, the Inland Revenue will check accounts itself.

If an offshore customer uses cash dispensers regularly on the mainland, or debit cards in UK outlets, banks or building societies are expected to ask the customer if there has been a change of status. Should they miss the signs, the Inland Revenue can reclaim from the bank or society the tax that should have been charged, plus any interest due.

Brian Morris, of the British Bankers' Association, said: "Banks are prepared to incur the necessary expenditure to prevent the Inland Revenue from poring over their accounts." The sums in such accounts were often large and clients "put a lot of value on the confidentiality associated with their accounts", he said.

The Inland Revenue said it had issued a notice this year reminding banks and building societies of their duties in respect of investors who were non ordinarily resident in the UK. The Inland Revenue was now offering to audit these accounts for banks and building societies if they did not want to set up their own audit. Most were choosing to make sure their own systems were efficient.

## Well, have you?

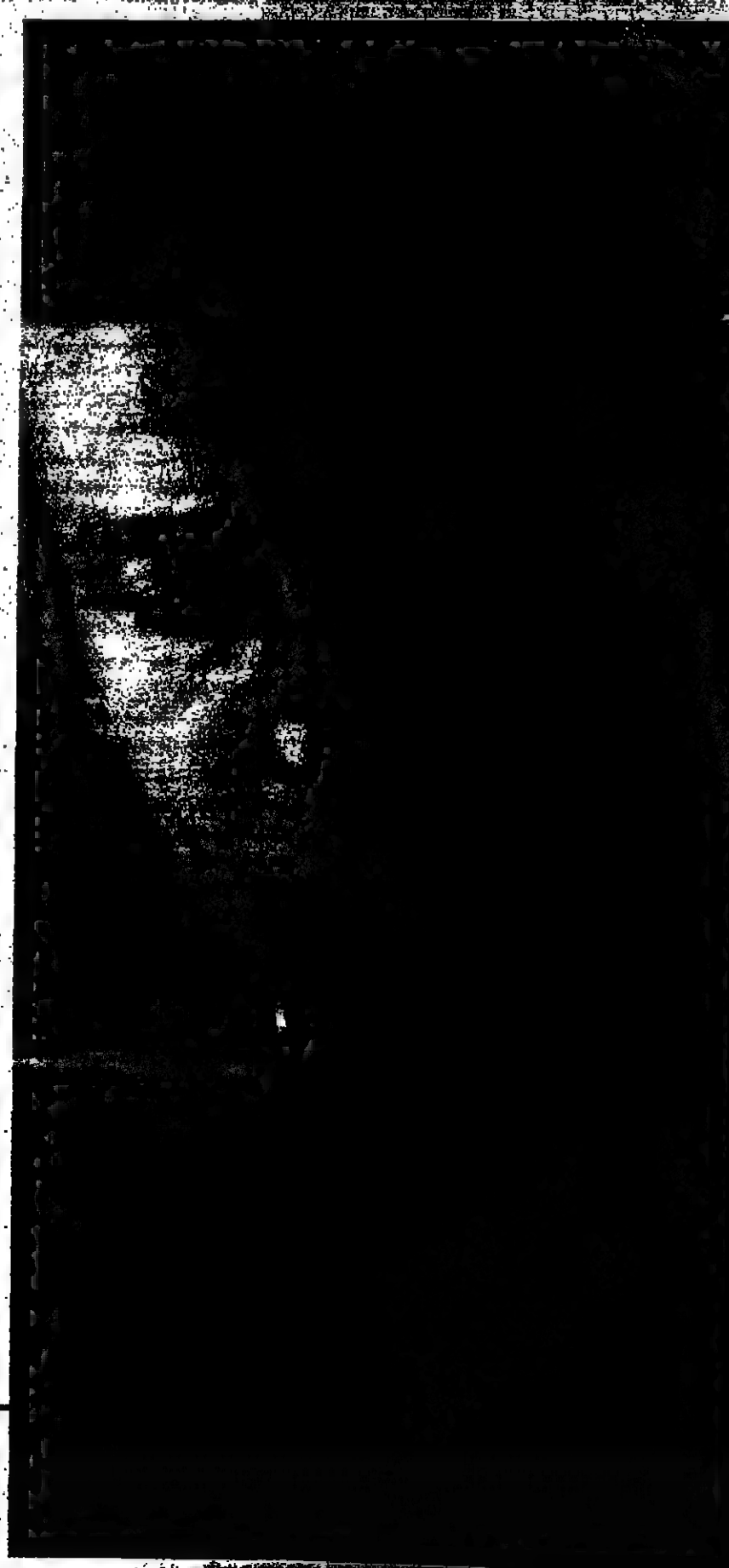
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# Making the most of a lump sum

Liz Dolan examines some of the options that are available to people who have a sizable amount of money to invest

THE excitement of inheriting a substantial sum of money is often followed by anxiety about what to do with it. Dreams of blowing the lot on a world cruise tend to disappear when the cheque arrives, leaving the recipient with a more realistic urge to use the capital to generate an income.

A surprising number of people are nervous about spreading their investments. They lodge the entire sum with a building society and never find out about other investment opportunities. Sometimes, this is the best solution. Often it is not, especially if the investor is a higher-rate taxpayer.

Martin Jones, a senior manager in the tax department of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, said: "Our general approach now-

days is to start with tax avoidance and see how far we get. With so many legitimate ways of doing so, it would be silly not to." However, what suits the higher-rate taxpayer is not necessarily the best solution for basic-rate payers. Personal equity plans (PEPs) are a case in point. Simon Corbitt, head of James Capel's private client department, said: "Basic-rate taxpayers who want to invest a small sum in equities should do so direct, rather than via a PEP, because of the extra charges involved."

The most obvious way to find the best home for a lump sum investment is to consult an independent adviser. However, the fees can cancel out the benefits if the amount to be invested is small.

A READER who has just moved in with her boyfriend wants advice on how to invest the money she will receive from the proceeds on the cottage she bought a few years ago. Initial rental income, plus any proceeds from the sale are unlikely to add up to more than £5,000. She has no immediate need for the capital and she resents paying tax.

Martin Jones said £5,000 would just about cover her consultation fees. On a more practical note, he suggested investing in a tax exempt special savings account (Tessa). This would cater for the reader's desire for a tax-free investment vehicle, while still giving access to the capital if the need arises. Although capital invested in a Tessa must be locked away for five years, it offers full tax relief, some flexibility is allowed.

Mr Jones said: "Tessas allow you to take the interest as income after deduction of basic-rate tax, but the amount deducted stays inside the Tessa to be collected at the end of the five years. It's true that any capital withdrawal means all interest becomes taxable, but if that happens, you will probably have made at least as

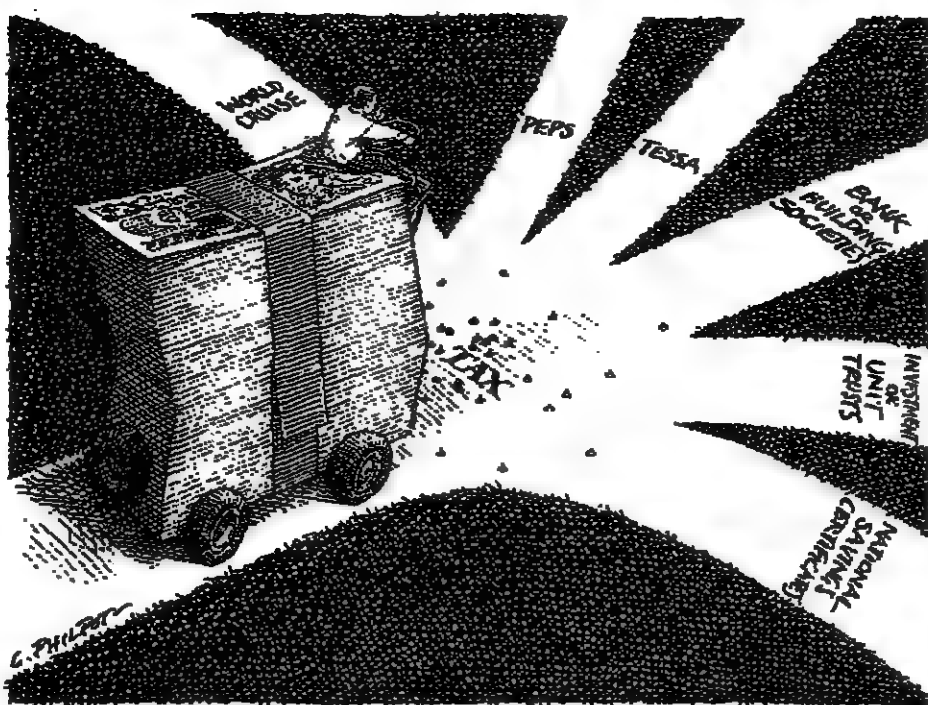
much as you would if you'd put it in a building society in the first place."

Simon Corbitt said the amount of money available was too low, and the reader's situation too fluid, for her capital to be tied up for long. He advised leaving the money in a building society or bank deposit account.

A riskier, but more potentially rewarding, alternative was a "good, solid, high yielding unit trust with a good performance record."

"James Capel's income fund springs to mind. So does M&G's dividend fund". If the reader chooses this option, however, she must bear in mind the possibility of the stock market moving down as well as up.

Stephen Ingledew, business development manager at Frizzell, the insurance broker, said this investor should make sure that, whatever investment vehicle she chose, her cash was accessible. This ruled out any equity-based options, he said, especially given the current volatility of the stock market.



A WEEKEND Money reader with a wanderlust wants to know how best to finance a trip round the world. He is 32 and single.

He plans to sell his flat and use the money to fund his travels, which he expects to last anywhere between two and five years.

He calculates that the sale of his home will realise £25,000. Part of the money will have to be set aside to fund a 25-year endowment policy, which is now in its sixth year and is therefore not worth cashing in.

He intends to leave any administration of his finances to his parents, but wishes to keep this to the minimum.

As a person who will not be resident in the United Kingdom, he will not have to pay tax on any interest earned on his investments.

In practice, however, he would not have to pay tax even if he stayed in the UK, as £25,000 is unlikely to generate enough income to take him above the limit of his personal allowance.

His plan is to spread the capital between various building society accounts. "My inclination is to maintain, say,

£25,000 in an interest-paying current account, £5,000 in a three-month notice savings account, £5,000 in a one-year account and £5,000 in a two-year account."

However, most advisers consider that this plan is based on too rosy a view of what may happen over the next year or two.

Stephen Ingledew advises this investor to ensure the entire sum remains readily accessible because "apart from anything else, he may decide to come back in six months and want to buy another flat".

Building society accounts answered that need, and also pay interest gross to non-taxpayers, he said.

Unit trusts were another possibility because, although dividends are paid net of tax, the balance could be reclaimed later from the Inland Revenue.

However, the volatility of

the stock market would seem to rule out investing more than a few thousand pounds in this way.

National Savings income bonds were also worth considering, although it would be wise to check whether better rates could be obtained from building societies.

Martin Jones suggested putting the entire sum in an offshore bank or building society. "We advise all our non-UK residents to do it that way. It avoids any need to reclaim tax afterwards, so it's a lot less messy."

He pointed out that all the big institutions have offshore subsidiaries. Money invested in this fashion would therefore be readily available from bank branches anywhere in the world.

Simon Corbitt said: "Put the lot on deposit somewhere. That way he can tap in as and when he wants to. Playing around with other options simply complicates the situation and could land him with more expense."

£10,000

AN INVESTOR who wishes to get the best return on a £10,000 lump sum and does not need income should consider buying National Savings certificates. Martin Jones said: "They are creating something of a stir among small savers at the moment because rates on offer are considerably ahead of the rest of the market. Building societies are losing a lot of depositors."

The 37th issue pays a fixed rate of 8 per cent a year for five years tax-free. The maximum investment is £10,000. "That represents a 13.3 per cent return for a higher-rate taxpayer. You just can't get that sort of return anywhere else."

A similar opportunity is offered by National Savings' fifth index-linked issue. This pays a guaranteed 4.5 per cent rate above inflation, fixed over five years. "At current RPI of 4.3 per cent, that means 8.8 per cent, or 14.7 per cent to higher-rate taxpayers, risk-free," he added.

Stephen Ingledew said: "Most of Frizzell's clients come from the public sector. They are used to a steady income and tend to be risk-averse." For people like these, with £10,000 to invest, he would recommend either Tessa or National Savings certificates for the medium to long term.

"If they wanted to invest for more than five years, I may advise putting up to 50 per cent into equities, probably via one of the steadier unit trusts or investment trusts."

Simon Corbitt said: "If you want to get the best possible capital growth from £10,000, I'd put the whole lot on red on the roulette table. You've then got an even chance of doubling your money at a stroke." For the 99.9 per cent who would prefer a less high-risk-high reward option: "Why not go for an investment trust with a good track record and a wide spread, such as the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust?"

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## Student fees need planning

By Liz Dolan

PARENTS who expect that their children will go on to further, or higher education, should start saving as early as possible, according to Norwich Union.

The insurance company calculates that a three-year further education course, now costs £10,000 and research for the company shows that 84 per cent of parents are unaware of the potential cost.

As student numbers continue to increase, the amount available from the state to fund them will gradually decrease.

Norwich Union says that

the 700,000 students currently engaged on full-time further education courses is projected to rise to 1 million in a year's time, and carry on growing thereafter.

Local authorities, faced with a growing pile of grant applications each year, are proving increasingly reluctant to provide any money at all for students other than those on degree courses, which qualify for mandatory grants.

Only one in four students currently qualifies for the full maintenance grant, which in any case has been frozen at £2,265 (£2,845 for those in

London) since 1990. This can be topped up by a student loan, which has been raised by 25 per cent to £715 (£883 in London) for the coming academic year.

However, Norwich Union says, students are still likely to have to borrow from other sources, or look to relatives for help. "A large debt doesn't help a student concentrate on studies and is not the best start to a working life."

Students whose parents' residual income is more than £13,360 receive no state assistance except course fees, even if the course they are following qualifies for a mandatory grant.

Those students applying for a discretionary grant are unlikely to get even their fees paid, let alone their living expenses.

Parents who left university more than ten years ago may be unaware that, in the early 1980s, the government raised parental contributions by 25 per cent.

In addition, although the grant was frozen in 1990, the residual income limit has continued to rise with inflation, thus gradually eroding the number of students that qualify for maintenance grants as time goes on.

Norwich Union calculates that, for a child who is eight at the moment, a three-year degree course at age 18 will require funding of more than £16,000, assuming 5 per cent inflation.

Suggested investment vehicles include regular savings plans, with-profits endowment policies and Personal Equity Plans.

These are not tied to educational needs, and the proceeds can be used for, say, buying a home if plans change later.

A free booklet on education planning is available from Norwich Union on 0603 681938.

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Both offer inflation plus 4.5 per cent. But National Savings certificates have to be held for a full five years to get this return, while the new Britannia Index Linked Account offers it as a running rate of return.

Currently the building society account pays 8.8 per cent gross. This translates to 6.6 per cent net of basic tax. **The Independent. 13.6.92.**

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Interest rates are subject to change



# Abbey still has £100m to give away

BY LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

ABBEY National still has shares worth more than £100 million to give away to 390,000 savers and borrowers. The former building society has not been able to trace the people in the three years since its flotation.

It can now legally set about selling the shares.

Next week, Sir Christopher Tugendhat, its chairman, will write to the people who are believed to be eligible for the shares asking them to complete a form to claim the shares allocated to customers at the time of the flotation.

Each customer with £100 in their five star, share, current or seven day accounts at the end of 1983 who kept the account open until after the members' vote in April the following year qualified for 100 free shares.

Borrowers needed to owe the society at least £100 at the end of 1988 and not have paid off their mortgage before the vote was taken.

The shares are now worth about £270 and £25.70 in dividends have already been paid on them.

Only people of 18 and above were entitled to the shares. Those with more than one savings or mortgage account were only allowed one



Customer search: John Fry, of Abbey National, who is looking for 390,000 customers

lot of free shares in each of the categories.

Most of the people are thought to have moved house without telling the Abbey. The bank is therefore putting claim forms in all branches,

placing advertisements in branches and has set up a free phone line on 0500 500 202 for anyone who wants to stake their claim.

Only claims made on the forms will be considered. The

bank expects a large volume of people trying to claim shares.

John Fry, group services

director, said he expected delays of two to three weeks

could occur between claims being made and the people

being contacted. This is the seventh time the Abbey has tried to get hold of the people. At the sixth attempt it was able to hand over 5,000 more shareholdings.

Those that are not claimed this time will be sold and between 90 and 95 per cent of the money will be retained by the Abbey.

The rest will be used to endow Abbey National Charitable Trust. This gives £1 million a year to charities and could have its income doubled by the proceeds of the share sale.

Those entitled to the shares do not lose their right to claim when the shares are sold early next year. They have another six years from the date of the sale to claim.

Claims for dividends earned can be made for up to 12 years after they were announced.

Some members called on the Abbey to give all the shares to charity at its last annual general meeting.

Members who just missed out because their accounts were pennies short of £100, or who were the second named person on a joint account, had hoped that they might receive shares belatedly.

During the flotation, 560 million free shares were given out and 3.5 million first time shareholders were created.

## Healthy interest in Wellcome with a week of bidding to go

BY LIZ DOLAN

INVESTORS wishing to take part in Wellcome's £3 billion share offer have little more than a week in which to send in their applications. The offer to the public closes on Tuesday, July 21.

Unlike institutional investors, who have to make a specific bid for the shares, private investors simply apply for a parcel of shares, subject to a minimum £1,000 application. The strike price and allocations will be announced on Monday, July 27.

Those wishing to register with the share information office (081 944 1242) must do so before Wednesday, July 15.

Alternatively, they may apply through a stockbroker, or collect a prospectus and application form from main Lloyds Bank branches.

Shares worth £180 million have been set aside for private UK investors. If the issue is oversubscribed, the earlier the application, the higher the allocation. Smaller investors are likely to be penalised, as priority will be given to those applying for the most shares.

Applications must be made in multiples of £500 between £1,000 and £14,500, and in £1,000 multiples from £15,000 to £45,000.

Since bidding opened last

Monday, initial interest has been higher than many had predicted. Reports suggest that more than 40 per cent of the shares have been bid for at an average 5 per cent discount to the current market price.

The offer for sale is the largest ever made for shares in a non-privatisation stock. The Wellcome Trust is selling 330 million shares, representing 38.4 per cent of the company, to drop its holding from 75 per cent to 36.6 per cent.

The shares have tumbled steadily from £11.75 to a low of 84.8p since the offer was announced. Wellcome closed yesterday at 68.75p.

## Insurer insists on anti-theft device

OWNERS of fast cars will soon have to fit a £400 anti-theft device before Norwich Union will agree to insure their vehicles against theft (Liz Dolan writes).

From August 1, drivers wishing to insure any of 45 named models will have to install a Veda Immobiliser, a black box which is connected to a car's electronic circuits. It can be wired in several ways so

that thieves cannot easily learn how to override the system. Because it is so complicated, it has to be installed by an expert, which is one reason why it costs so much.

The devices are neutralised by a card key. Three keys are supplied with each kit. If drivers lose them in the first year, Veda will replace them free.

After that, they will probably

have to pay for a new device. A spokesman said the 45 models were chosen because they were more than three times more likely to be stolen than other cars. They include the Ford Escort RS Turbo and MG Metro Turbo.

Some cars are so prone to theft that the company will not insure them even after an Immobiliser has been installed.

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TMS/11/7

Special mortgage deals still abound. West Bromwich building society is offering a fixed rate mortgage, pegged at 9.6 per cent until the end of September 1994. This compares with the society's current standard variable rate of 10.7 per cent. Mortgage Services (MSL), the mortgage subsidiary of Hypo-Bank of Germany, has three new products. The first is capped at 9.35 per cent (APR 11.4 per cent) until 1 July 1993; the second is fixed at 9.8 per cent (APR 11.3 per cent) until 1 September 1994; the third is capped at 9.99 per cent (APR 11.1 per cent) until 1 July 1997. MSL operates through various UK life assurance groups, including Legal & General, Scottish Life, Scottish Amicable, and Sun Alliance. Lend United building society has cut 0.5 per cent off the rate charged on loans above £50,000 for the first five years of the mortgage. This means a rate of 10.6 per cent, compared with the normal 10.7 per cent.

□ MGM Assurance has launched a new investment bond that is directly linked to the performance of the 100 largest companies on the stock market over five years. The Stock Market Guarantee Bond is a single premium unit-linked life assurance bond which tracks the FT-SE 100 index over five years. Investors who hold the bond until maturity are guaranteed not to lose their initial investment if the stock market falls. If it rises, investors receive 95 per cent of their original investment, increased by the FT-SE rise. The minimum investment is £5,000, the maximum is £100,000. The interest rate is 10.6 per cent. The offer closes on August 21.

□ Tyndall has set up a managed deposit account, which takes advantage of movements in money market rates. Customers' deposits are managed between a range of four short deposit periods of one week, one month, two months and three months. The minimum deposit is £100,000, the maximum is £250,000. Interest rates are quoted daily and held until noon the following day. There is no account, transaction or dealing charge.

□ British motorists risk being underinsured when hiring a car in America, the Automobile Association warns. The AA says that people who accept standard fire cover in the US are likely to be insured only for limited third party liability. The Association has therefore launched AA Drivesure America, a top-up insurance scheme that covers rented cars and provides for claims up to \$1 million. It also

provides up to £1 million protection in the event of other drivers in an accident being uninsured or untraceable. Premiums start at £36 for eight days and eight people, four of whom may be drivers.

□ From September, the Official Custodian of Charities will start to withdraw its services. The OCC has been providing custodian services for charities since 1961. Its winding up will leave 40,000 small charities with a lot more custodial duties to carry out. Mercury Asset Management has set up a number of initiatives to help charities in this position. These include waiving the initial charge, for a limited period, on its two common investment funds, Charisco and Charicare. MAM has also set up Linkline, a free phone charity advice line, on 0800 282490, and is taking steps to educate smaller charities about the implications behind the withdrawal of the OCC.

□ Customers of Bradford & Bingley building society may now order travel insurance over the telephone. Premiums can be paid on the spot by credit card. The service is open between 9am and 5.30pm on weekdays, or 10am to 4pm on Saturdays. The number is 0800 585612.

□ From September 14, National Westminster will increase quarterly charges for customers who overdraw on their current and current plus accounts by £3 to £19 and £23 respectively. Charges for unauthorised overdrafts will go up by £5 to £36 a quarter. NatWest also proposes to cut interest rates by 2 per cent for personal and car loans agreed on, or after, August 3. The new rates will be 23.4 per cent APR for loans of £500 to £2,000; 21.9 per cent APR for £2,100 and above.

□ TSB is offering customers who take out a personal loan of over £2,500 to buy a car at a 4 per cent discount on the standard TSB rate. The new rate is 19.9 per cent. Loans are available for between one and five years. The rate is fixed for the life of the loan. Both new and existing customers are eligible for the offer, which runs until August 31.

□ National & Provincial building society has published two free booklets on how to deal with mortgage arrears and other debt worries. As well as advice on mortgage difficulties, the booklets provide budget planners and a list of DSS and consumer group contact numbers. N&P's mortgage helpline is on 0800 757500.

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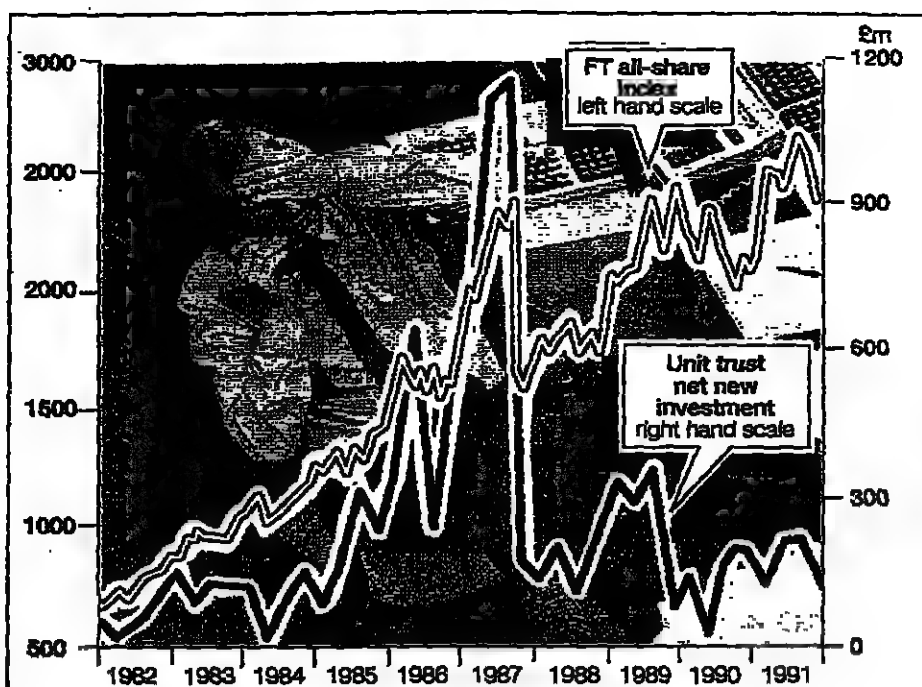
## Reverse gear to win with shares

**Rupert Bruce says**  
those who bought  
in May and went  
away missed the  
investment boat

NET unit trust sales of £235 million in May matched the stock market mood, which reached a record. This compared with just £179 million going into building societies. Once again investors moved into the market at the top.

Tiring is one of the most important decisions facing anyone investing a lump sum in equity-type investments but, if unit trust sales are representative, investors are consistently getting it wrong. Almost £3 billion, a record, was invested in unit trusts during the three months before the 1987 stock market crash, the Unit Trust Association says.

Mary Blair, Fidelity Investments' product development director, said: "As markets rise, people fear they will lose out and try to get in." That is exaggerated, she says, as unit trust firms find their advertising more effective as markets rise and advertise more. The so-called "Royal event" would certainly back her view. In September 1987 — a month before the crash — Royal Life launched three unit trusts in the most spectacular and successful unit trust marketing campaign yet. Some 135,000 private investors parted with a total of £240



Buying at the top of the market or selling at the bottom

million that was soon worth considerably less.

A spokesman for Royal Life said: "Unfortunately, nothing succeeds like success. If we had tried to do the same thing in November 1987 they would have said 'You must be joking', but they would have done much better in returns."

Mike Bishop, UK investment director of Gartmore, said: "When markets are very, very low and interest rates are very high, you should be

looking at getting into markets. Give up 15 per cent on the street and put it into equity markets as they are probably very low. The converse is when interest rates are very low and markets very high, and it looks as if the last thing you should do is sell your shares and put money on deposit. It is likely you should do just that."

But how does an investor judge how high the market is? Over the long term a stock market should continue on a

rising, if erratic, trend in anticipation of an economy's growth. So professional investment managers rarely look at a share price in isolation when measuring how expensive or cheap it is. Put simply, investment managers look at price/earnings ratios (p/e) and dividend yields. A p/e ratio is calculated by dividing the price of a share by the earnings per share reported at the last year end.

The dividend yield is the

previous year's total gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. Both are quoted next to the share price in newspapers' financial pages.

Kenneth King, investment director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said as a general rule the average p/e ratio should never exceed 20 or fall below 5 in Britain. When inflation rates were high p/e ratios should be lower and vice versa. The traditional rule regarding dividend yields was that shares were a buy when the stock market's average dividend yield exceeded 5 per cent.

Another commonly used ratio is reverse yield. This is the ratio of a long-dated gilt's yield to the stock market's yield. This ratio has fluctuated between about 2 and 2.7, but there is some debate today over whether it may not be moving to a lower band because inflation is so low.

Last week the p/e ratio of the FT 500 share index was close to 15.2, the gross dividend yield of the FT All-share index was 4.93 per cent and the reverse yield ratio was a little under 2. Bearing in mind the low inflation rate, these ratios all seem to be at about the right level.

To reduce any short-term loss when investing a lump sum, investors should put it into shares or unit trusts over a number of months. If they want to invest using a Personal Equity Plan, groups such as Fidelity offer Peps which put investments on deposit and switch them into the stock market over six months.

## Taxman takes Pep out of jointly owned equity

By LINDSEY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

INLAND Revenue rules are preventing up to 50 per cent of investors from using share exchange schemes to put money into Personal Equity Plans. The Revenue has ruled shares held in joint names cannot be used to fund Peps.

This means Pep managers offering share exchange schemes are having to turn away up to half the investments offered. Only newly is-

sued shares can be transferred into Peps without being sold first. But fund managers can accept shareholdings via exchange schemes. They sell the shares or put them in their own funds and place cash in the Pep for the investor. In this way Pep managers can attract new business and investors can dispose of any number of shareholdings without incurring commission.

The schemes are increasing in popularity but, as half the shares sent in for exchange are

in spouses' joint names, they are causing problems when investors are told by some managers they must re-register the shares in a single name or sell them themselves. The first suggestion can take up to two months by the time the new certificates are returned and the second may involve considerable expense if there are many share certificates.

The Revenue says it cannot allow share certificates in joint names to be used to fund Peps as it is not clear from whom

the money comes. It refuses to allow jointly held certificates to be used, even where a couple want to use half of the shares each to set up a tax-free Pep. Pep's rules state managers must be sure each investment in the plans, which are free of income and capital gains tax, is made by the person whose name is on the Pep. Because of this it says, jointly held shares are not acceptable.

Pep managers fear the next stage will be a refusal to accept cheques written on joint ac-

counts as the ownership of the money is no clearer than that for jointly held shares. Most investors hold the shares jointly to avoid probate problems when one partner dies.

Anne McMeekin, managing director of Framlington Unit Trust Managers, said: "The Revenue needs a clear indication of where the money has come from for a Pep. You could have a couple with a certificate for £12,000 of shares who want to sell and reinvest in a Pep each and it would not be allowed."

The Revenue said the onus was on managers to ensure the money belongs to the Pep applicant. With a joint shareholding this was not possible.

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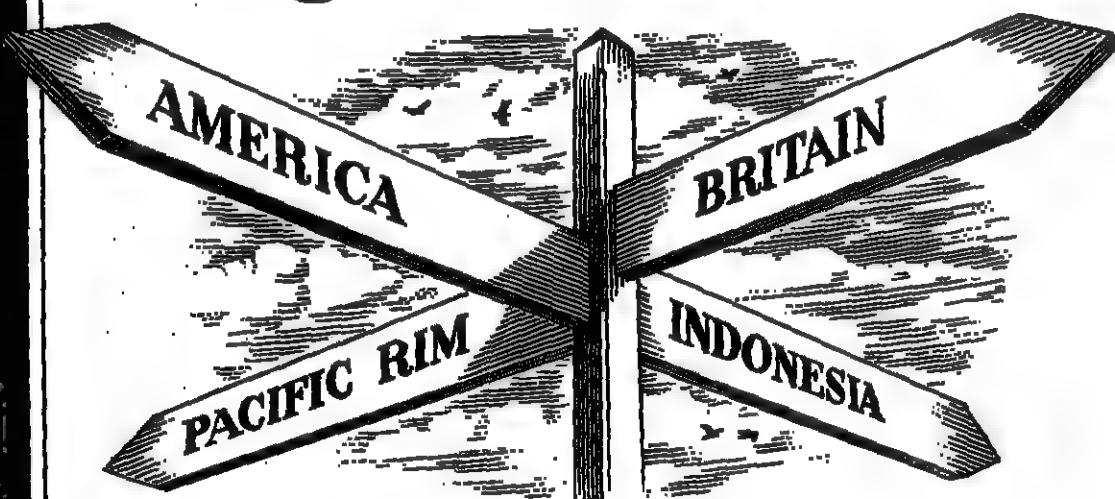
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All Fibres 1,200	Engrs 70	SPC 620	Svtn Trans 1,200	16783.72 (+6.94)	Zurich: S&K Gen	Jan 93	90.75	90.78	90.68	90.70
Alu 690	Fin BA 1,300	NicWit Bk 3,300	Stk Trans 4,200	Hong Kong:	London:	Feb 93	90.45	90.48	90.45	90.47
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Bri Aero 1,200	Kingfisher Oil 824	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Mar 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
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Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Jul 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Aug 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Sep 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Oct 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Nov 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Dec 94	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Jan 95	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314	FT G&S Sec:	Feb 95	88.05	88.11	87.81	87.87
Cable Wire 3,300	Larson Sec 75	Rank Org 960	Stm 1,300	Thames W 314						

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Cattle										Pigs									
Section	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Section	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Adm. 1000	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 1000	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 500	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 500	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 250	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 250	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 62.5	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 62.5	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 31.25	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 31.25	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 15.625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 15.625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 7.8125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 7.8125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 3.90625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 3.90625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 1.953125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 1.953125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 976.5625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 976.5625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 488.28125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 488.28125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 244.140625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 244.140625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 122.0703125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 122.0703125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 61.03515625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 61.03515625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 30.517578125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 30.517578125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 15.2587890625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 15.2587890625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 7.62939453125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 7.62939453125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 3.814697265625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 3.814697265625	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Adm. 1.9073486328125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 1.9073486328125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
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Adm. 476.837158203125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	Adm. 476.837158203125	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
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M T (Coopers & Lybrand),  
 Southampton; Walker H (KPMG),  
 Ross & Co, Douglas; Walker P (KPMG),  
 Peak Marwick, Dartington; Walker S C  
 (Hacker Young & Co), Exeter; Worcester;  
 (Pannett, Keir, Porter), Worcester;  
 Wallace A C H (Touche Ross & Co),  
 Birmingham; Wallace I, (KPMG),  
 Wallingford; Wallace James H (KPMG),  
 Ross & Co, London; Walker R (Touche  
 Ross & Co), London; Walker R  
 (KPMG), Peak Marwick, Leeds; Walling-  
 ford; (Coopers & Lybrand), Reading;  
 Walsby J (KPMG), London; Walsby  
 J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Wang  
 T Y L (KPMG), Peak Marwick, London;  
 Wang W Duncan (KPMG), London;  
 Farinborough; Wong C S (Sharp  
 Farinborough, London; Wood D J (Long  
 & Co), Leeds; Wood M J (KPMG),  
 Kenilworth, London; Wood M J (Ernst &  
 Young), London; Wood M J (KPMG),  
 Surbiton; Wood P (KPMG), (Pwiley  
 & Co), London; Wood P, (KPMG),  
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 London; Wood R (KPMG), Manchester;

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(Coopers & Lybrand, Bristol)  
 (Whitson), Rotterdam; Weyman H L  
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 Whitley D (Grant Thornton),  
 Liverpool; Whitley N D (Coopers &  
 Lybrand), Nottingham; Whitley P B  
 (EPMG Paul Marwick), London;  
 Wheeler D (Maline Ross), Swindon;  
 Halmerston, Young D J (Touche Ross &  
 Co), Manchester; Young D M (Coopers  
 Lybrand), Leeds; Young & Cape &  
 Delgatis, Farnham; Young L J, G  
 (Ernst & Young), London; Young P A  
 (EPMG Paul Marwick), Leeds; Young S  
 A M (Touche Ross & Co), Bristol  
 Zafer A A (Stey Hayward), Chelmsford;  
 Zemlin J D (Arthur Andersen), London;  
 Zaccaro A A (Letley, Rowe & Co),  
 Kenton

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# Silverstone's lap record takes a pounding on the first day of timed practice for the British grand prix

## Masterful Mansell blazes a memorable trail

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell produced an astonishing display at Silverstone yesterday during the first day of timed practice for the British grand prix tomorrow.

He repeatedly shattered the circuit's lap record and, by two o'clock when the session ended, he had left his team-mate, Riccardo Patrese, nearly two seconds adrift. The next man was Ayrton Senna, the world champion, who is just under three seconds behind the Englishman.

The large crowd was left speechless, then roared its approval at the feats of the Williams-Renault driver, who is beginning to develop the kind of aura about him that Senna has had for the past two years.

The extraordinary thing about the Nigel Mansell Show was that, on Thursday, he had said it would be very difficult to dip under one minute 20 seconds.

"If I can make it under 1:19, I will be very pleased with myself," he said. "It would be quite an achievement."

Mansell, aged 38, broke the barrier no fewer than five times, fighting his way through the traffic and G-forces to master one of the biggest and most testing race tracks in the world.

Behind him lay a motoring wasteland. All the other leading drivers and teams gave everything but looked to be in a different league.

Mansell was out for 20 laps, pounding away at a circuit which he, more than any driver, has made his own. Afterwards, he looked shattered.

"It was a perfect lap," he said. "Today, I was optimistic that I would lap under 1:20. Doing a 1:18 was unreal."

"But I'm in real pain. Everything aches: my head and my teeth — I had to clench them so hard to stop them chattering — and my stomach."

The G-forces, especially at this track, are something that has to be really reckoned with.

### GRAND PRIX WINNERS TABLE

GP	Races	Wins
A Prost (Fr)	184	44
A Senna (Br)	139	34
J Stewart (GB)	99	27
N Mansell (GB)	173	27
J Clark (GB)	72	25
J Lauda (Austria)	171	25
J Ayrton Senna (Br)	204	23
N Piquet (Br)	204	23
S Moss (GB)	96	18
J Brabham (Aus)	126	18
E Fittipaldi (Br)	144	14
G Hill (GB)	178	14
Other British		
J Hunt	92	10
J Surtees	111	6
J Watson	152	6
M Hawthorn	46	1
I Ireland	50	1

You have to commit yourself here at Silverstone. If you do, it's going to hurt."

Mansell also praised his team for the work they did. "We had some problems this morning," he said. "This afternoon, I did my time in the race car, which was equipped with the new RS4 engine."

He felt that, as reliability is paramount, the team would probably decide to race with the older RS3 on Sunday. Older it may be but it still has the measure of the other engines on the grid.

Behind the two Williams-Renaults, Senna did all he could to limit the damage. But there is only so much a driver can do.

"The laps I did with my first set of tyres were good and I may have gone a bit quicker with the second," the world champion said. "But the reality is that these results reflect our weaknesses and their strengths."

Senna was referring to the chassis problems that McLaren are doing their best to rectify. It seems that there will be some aerodynamic tweaks today that the team hopes will make a significant difference.

It seems odd that McLaren has this kind of fundamental chassis weakness yet can still spend £150,000 to equip their pits with three mobile workshops, which are suspended above the cars.

Mansell's times were so extraordinary that many of the other drivers were astounded by what he had done.

Patrese commented that this was the circuit where he would always feel that, in a straight fight with his team-mate, he would come off second best.

"We both drove well and we both have superb cars," Patrese said. "But here he can find that little bit extra that, quite literally, makes him fly."

Michael Schumacher put in a good performance, as always. He finished the session just behind Senna — and on a circuit on which he has never driven in anger.

His first acquaintance was during the June tests this year, so his drive was, once more, of the first order. "Yes, I am happy with my performance," the young German said. "But I think I can do better tomorrow."

Mansell's brilliance in practice obscured any other piece of news or driver performance on the track.

It might also have helped concentrate the minds of the men who, very soon, will have to take an important decision regarding who will be driving for the Williams-Renault team in 1993.



A word in your ear: Mansell, right, chats with a Williams-Renault team official at Silverstone yesterday after a tyre-testing session in preparation for the British grand prix

Patrick Faure, head of Renault Sport, is one such man. Frank Williams is the other. The Frenchman has said he will go and see Williams tomorrow.

"It will be a short meeting: our encounters always are," Faure said. "I will tell him who we, at Renault, think will be the two drivers who, working together, can make us win the world title in 1992."

"Then I will take a step back and let Frank decide. Ours are suggestions, no more. It is up to Frank to decide that it is his right."

Mansell would like to know what is going on, as he disclosed here on Thursday. Whatever the outcome of the meeting, it would seem amazing to contemplate a Williams-Renault team without him.

If he wins on Sunday, he must surely be able to name his price: and he will have earned that right.

### McCarthy misses the mark

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LUCK has not exactly attached itself to Perry McCarthy this season, so yesterday was par for the course. The Essex driver failed to pre-qualify for the British grand prix at Silverstone tomorrow as ill-fortune again dogged his performance.

McCarthy, aged 31, who has sold everything, including his house, in his attempt to make it into Formula One racing, failed to achieve one of the required top-four pre-qualifying places at Silverstone. His Andrea Moda-Judd team-mate, Roberto Moreno, from Brazil, also failed to make the pre-qualifying mark.

McCarthy's impoverished team, only able to run one car, could only give him two laps,

on wet tyres on a drying track, registering a time of 1min 46.719sec, leaving him in sixth place.

Bertrand Gachot, of Belgium, in a Venturi-Larrousse, was the fastest, registering 1min 24.550sec. McCarthy has now failed to pre-qualify five times this season.

The other qualifiers were Gabriele Tarquini, of Italy, and Andrea Chiesa, of Switzerland, in Fondmetal-Fords, and Ukyo Katayama, of Japan, in a Venturi-Larrousse.

Silverstone officials have insisted that their track would stay the home of British Formula One racing. The Northamptonshire track's future as the venue for the British grand prix was said to be threatened

by the breakdown of a multi-million pound investment deal.

The head of the Benetton racing team, Tom Walkinshaw, was reported to be behind a deal that involved Silverstone investing in one of his companies, to generate income for another revamp of the circuit. But Ken Tyrrell, head of a rival team, is among opponents who have blocked the plan, forming a defence committee.

A spokeswoman for Silverstone, Corinna Phillips, said: "The future of the British grand prix here is as assured as any race can be. We have a contract to stage the grand prix until 1996 and I don't expect any change in that."

## Four Britons seeking winning race formula

By STEPHEN SLATER

AT LEAST four British drivers have a chance of beating Gil de Ferran, of Brazil, the British Formula Three championship leader, in their most important race of the season at Silverstone today.

The race gives the drivers a chance of recognition in front of the Formula One team managers. It is an opportunity which has been used to good effect by Formula One drivers. Mika Hakkinen, Damon Hill and Johnnie Herbert have all won the race.

So far this year, three race victories by de Ferran and two by Philippe Adams, of Belgium, have moved them to the head of the championship ahead of Oswaldo Negri of Brazil, but behind them Kelvin Burt, from Tamworth in Staffordshire, has already claimed one victory in his first full season of Formula Three. He, Warren Hughes from Sunderland and Julian Westwood from Shrewsbury are all capable of success.

However, the name with an equally strong chance of joining Mansell and Brundle in future grands prix could be

that of Paul Evans, aged 19, from Maidenhead. Racing on a shoestring budget in a second-hand car he has proved capable of matching the newer cars.

The Esso British Touring Car championship forms the traditional curtain-closer for the Grand Prix meeting and a three-way battle among the leading manufacturers looks set to continue. The championship leader, John Cleland in his Vauxhall Cavalier, will have his work cut out to stay ahead of the Toyota Carinas of Will Hoy, the champion, and

Andy Rouse, his team-mate. However, BMW returned to form in the previous round of the championship, at Donington Park, when the VLM-prepared 318 Coupe took its first victory in the hands of Tim Harvey. The new car, which began its development programme at the start of the year, was fastest in pre-race testing at Silverstone, but its driver, Steve Soper, is committed to racing in Europe. This leaves Harvey, Tim Sugden and Alain Menu to uphold the BMW honours.



Patrese: adrift in second

POSITIONS (after eight rounds): Drivers' championship: 1, Mansell (GB), 86pts; 2, R Patrese (It), 34; 3, M Schumacher (Ger), 28; equal 4, A Senna (Br) and G Berger (Austria), 18; 5, J Alesi (Fr), 11; 6, M Brundle (GB), 5; 7, M Alboreto (It), 5; equal 8, A de Cesaris (It) and M Haldeman (Fin), 4; equal 11, K Wendlinger (Austria) and E Comas (Fr), 3; equal 13, I Herbert (GB), 2; 16, S Gachot (Bel), 1.

Constructors' championship: 1, Williams-Renault, 100pts; 2, McLaren-Honda, 82; 3, Benetton-Ford, 35; 4, Ferrari, 13; 5, Lotus-Ford, 6; 6, Footwork-Mugen, 5; 7, Tyrrell-Honda, 4; equal 8, March-Mugen and Ligier-Renault, 3; 10, Dallara-Ferrari, 2; 11, Venturi-Lamborghini, 1.

RESULTS: South Africa: 1, Mansell; 2, Patrese; 3, Senna; 4, Schumacher; 5, Berger; 6, Herbert. Mexico: 1, Mansell; 2, Patrese; 3, Schumacher; 4, Berger; 5, de Cesaris; 6, Haldeman; 7, Brundle; 8, Alesi; 9, Alboreto; 10, Martini; 11, Senna; 12, Patrese; 13, Schumacher; 14, Alesi; 15, Berger; 16, Alboreto; 17, Martini; 18, Senna; 19, Patrese; 20, Schumacher; 21, Alesi; 22, Berger; 23, Alboreto; 24, Martini; 25, Senna; 26, Patrese; 27, Schumacher; 28, Alesi; 29, Berger; 30, Alboreto; 31, Martini; 32, Senna; 33, Patrese; 34, Schumacher; 35, Alesi; 36, Berger; 37, Alboreto; 38, Martini; 39, Senna; 40, Patrese; 41, Schumacher; 42, Alesi; 43, Berger; 44, Alboreto; 45, Martini; 46, Senna; 47, Patrese; 48, Schumacher; 49, Alesi; 50, Berger; 51, Alboreto; 52, Martini; 53, Senna; 54, Patrese; 55, Schumacher; 56, Alesi; 57, Berger; 58, Alboreto; 59, Martini; 60, Senna; 61, Patrese; 62, Schumacher; 63, Alesi; 64, Berger; 65, Alboreto; 66, Martini; 67, Senna; 68, Patrese; 69, Schumacher; 70, Alesi; 71, Berger; 72, Alboreto; 73, Martini; 74, Senna; 75, Patrese; 76, Schumacher; 77, Alesi; 78, Berger; 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881, Sch



# High-tech race with designs on a life in the fast lane

**Formula One has come a long way since the days when drivers perched astride a transmission shaft, *John Blunsden* finds**

shaft running from the front-mounted engine to the rear wheels. Tall wheels with skinny tyres were slowed by drum brakes and fuel was carried,

The first important design breakthrough came in the late Fifties when Cooper put the engine behind the driver, who could therefore sit lower and better protected, and fuel was moved to pannier tanks amidships. By this time, disc brakes had replaced the drums, wheels had become smaller and tyres wider.

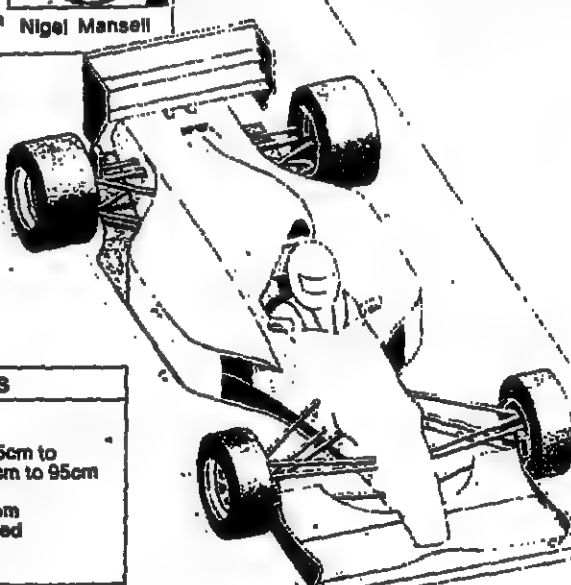
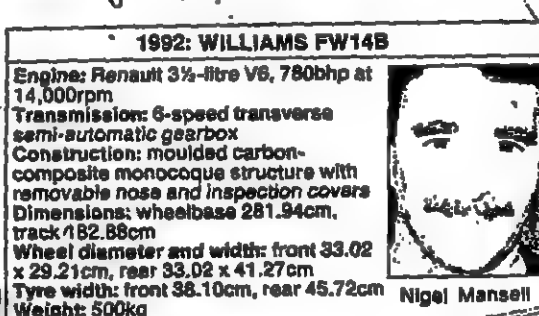
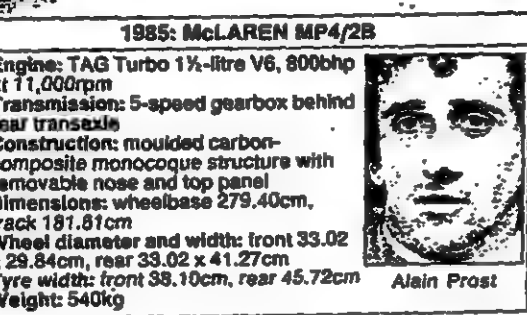
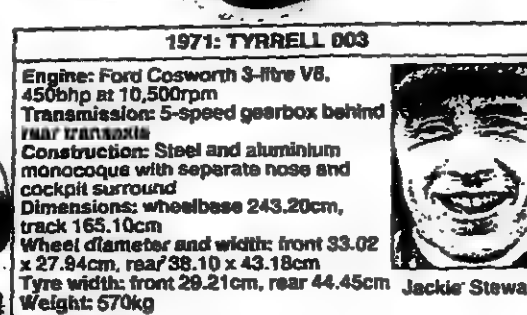
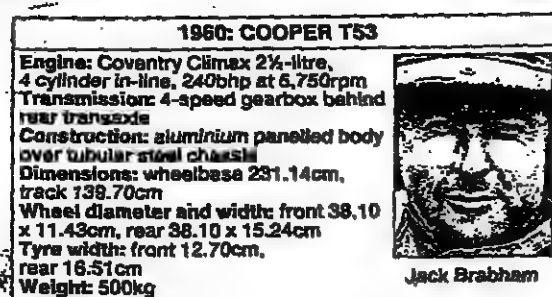
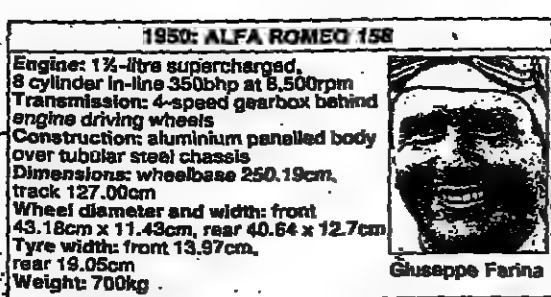
During the early Sixties, Lotus introduced the monocoque in place of the tubular chassis and reclined the driver further, while, by the end of the decade, tyres were wider still and cars had grown wings. The first were small body appendages, then came tall blades mounted over the rear suspension, until these were banned after some bad breakages. Wings have since been part of the main structure and dimensionally controlled.

The Seventies saw slick tyres, bag-type fuel tanks, safety structures and ground effects, using air beneath to generate downforce. Side skirts were added to contain the air and, by 1980, suspension movement had virtually disappeared with the need to maintain the seal. Although skirts were banned in 1981, underbodies were still sculptured aerodynamically until flat bonoms were required from 1983.

The Eighties was notable for the development of moulded carbon composite body/chassis structures, computer-controlled engine management systems and the rise and fall of turbo-charged engines first regulated out of contention by fuel limits and, since 1989, barred altogether.

The Nineties is the era of fly-by-wire technology with computer-processed semi-automatic transmissions, reactive suspensions and traction-control devices. Grand prix racing has come a long way since 1950, when race preparation meant checking tire pressure and plugs, winding up the dampers and telling the driver to go for it.

1050 107 11.



**Nigel Mansell**  
**Williams-Renault**

**Age:** 38  
**Grande price:** 173  
**Wins:** 27

Favorite to repeat his win at Silverstone last year and go on to his first world championship, in brilliant form this season, winning the first five races but stuttering in Monaco and Canada before making in France last weekend. "I don't like anybody to beat me on my home ground," says Mansell, who will overtake Jackie Stewart's British record of victories if he wins.

**Betting:** 4-1 on.

**Ayrton Senna**  
**McLaren-Honda**  
Age: 32  
Grands prix: 134  
Wins: 34  
World champion for the third time last year. The Brazilian has not had a good season, epitomised by retiring in France. Monaco is his only success of the season.  
Betting: 13-2.

**Riccardo Patrese**  
Williams-Renault  
Age: 38  
Grands prix: 173  
Wins: 5  
Mansell's team-mate and his

**Prospects of a  
British success  
at Silverstone  
tomorrow are high**

closest challenger this season, although 32 points behind going to Silverstone. Second to Mansell five times this year, the Italian has never collected a point at Silverstone in 15 years in Formula One. "It is time I did," he says. Betting: 5-1.

**Gerhard Berger**  
**McLaren-Honda**  
Age: 32  
Grands prix: 123  
Wins: 7  
Dutiful No. 2 to Senna and won in Canada this year. The Austrian is a hard, fast driver who is a real threat, but occasionally can be reckless.

**Michael Schumacher**  
**Benetton-Ford**  
Age: 23  
Grands prix: 14  
Best finish: 2nd.  
The best Formula One driver since Senna, the young German

is making his Silverstone bow. Brilliant but sometimes reckless, as shown by his crash with Serre at the first corner in France last weekend, a test he repeated when the race restarted.  
**Betting:** 20-1.

**Jean Alesi**  
**Ferrari**  
Age: 26  
Grands prix: 48  
Best finish: 2nd  
The Frenchman is another young charger, fearless and talented. But the F92A has been a disappointment for Ferrari this season and his time with the Italian team has not been easy after making such an impression with Tyrrell.  
Betings: 66-1.

**Martin Brundle**  
**Benetton-Ford**

Age: 33  
Grands prix: 91  
Best finish: 3rd

The popular British driver made his first bow on the podium last week when third at Magny-Cours. At last he seems to have a car that can provide him with results. A terrible start to the season, when overshadowed by Schumacher, but seems to be coming good. Silverstone would be the perfect place for his first victory.

His hopes were raised yesterday in qualifying.  
Betting: 50-1.

**Johnny Herbert**

**Lotus-Ford**  
Age: 27  
Grands prix: 23  
Best finish: 4th  
Typed to be Britain's next world championship contender. Talented and fast, his sixth place in France last week confirmed his potential. Seventh fastest in qualifying yesterday. A calm and cheerful temperament helps in Formula One, and the improvement of Lotus this season has been reflected in his performances and those of his teammate, Mika Hakkinen.  
Betling: 66-1.

**1993: PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

Engine: Revised uniform fuel for all teams  
Transmission: unchanged  
Dimensions: maximum width reduced from 215cm to 200cm and rear wing height reduced from 100cm to 95cm  
Construction: unchanged  
Wheels and tyres: maximum width reduced from 45.72cm to 38.10cm, carbon fibre wheels banned immediately  
Weight: unchanged

**Changing face:** the Formula One car, as it has evolved since the Alfa Romeo of 1950 right through to the 1992 Williams, driven by Nigel Mansell, which may represent the pinnacle of technological development

## Versatile French backs will worry England

FOR the second time within a year, England meet France in a World Cup quarter-final, but this time it is the turn of England Students who take on their French counterparts. Naturally the circumstances are very different: the jingoistic frenzy of the senior event is nowhere to be found, the atmosphere in the capital of Sardinia is more relaxed, and not unexpectedly, the locals are more keen for the outcome of Italy's game against the Romanians.

Whoever wins today's game is likely to go all the way to next weekend's final and with it gain the fringe benefits associated with success—travel dubs, promotions, contracts and a possibly a sympathetic employer.

However, unbeaten this year, are the favourites: their 22-9 win against England in Ramonville last winter is an ominous reminder of the stirring quality of the French backs.

"They are brilliant. Their

handling, running and overall ability is awesome. We miss the three first-hand tackles and they scored three tries," Le Cusworth, the England coach said.

The French attack is spearheaded by the French international centre, Thierry Lacroix, who has been supported by several highly promising players in Bondouy, Mazas Campana and company.

Martin Pepper, the England captain, and his men have no option but to tackle wholeheartedly for the duration of the game if they want to maintain the dream of reaching the final.

Whereas England resist their chances against the French, Ireland and Scotland are the underdogs in their encounters with New Zealand and Argentina respectively.

**QUARTER-FINALS:** Today, Italy v Romania, England v France, Tonga v Argentina and the final will be a winner-takes-all.

**RESULTS:** Group A: 49-0 Germany v France, 27-0 Scotland v Ireland, 27-0 Spain v France.

**Position:** Italy 7, Ireland 7, CG Germany 2, CG Japan 2, Argentina 2, Group B: Scotland 7, Japan 3, Spain 3.

## Britain must be on guard

GREAT Britain will have to be at their most resolute in the expectation of a wave of New Zealand attacks in tomorrow's first international here. Having studied the video tape of New Zealand's recent victory against Papua New Guinea last weekend, Malcolm Reilly, the British coach, expects his opponents "to move the ball with a lot of speed". Gary Freeman's short kicking game will also be prominent, Reilly believes, in New Zealand's revamped side. "They have some pretty decent players that we have not seen before," he said. "I think that they will be very competitive."

If the New Zealand team has any international experience, the backs are bristling with talent. The former Wigan centre, Kevin Iro, and the Castleford wing, Richie Blackmore, are a formidable threat.

A series of injuries prevented Blackmore showing all his talent in his first season with Castleford but the powerful winger is now fully fit and his two tries against Papua New Guinea were the specialties of

a man bang in form. Reilly believes that his selection of Gary Connolly in place of Paul Newlove will strengthen the Lions' defence and even the might of Iro and Blackmore may struggle against a supremely well organised British side. Auckland could not find a way through, despite a second half of constant pressure during the fine victory by the Lions in midweek, as their captain, Clayton Friend, ruefully conceded. "They've got



## Schofield: big threat

## Fourth race will test fitness of Newby-Fraser

ALMOST 2,000 triathletes will embark on the Iron Man Europe event, the fourth race in the world Iron Man series in Roth, Germany, this weekend over what is regarded as the fastest triathlon course in the world (Jan Sweet writes).

The field, the largest of any of the Iron Man series, features a 2.4-mile swim, a 122-mile cycle ride and, finally, a 26.2-mile marathon in which the best competitors should finish in just over eight hours. Indeed, Thea Sybesma, of Holland, achieved the best performance by a woman in the world last year — 8h 55min — over the course.

The women's race is the most fascinating as Sybesma returns to take on Paula Newby-Fraser, of Australia, who is the "Zimbabwean" who is perhaps the leading "Iron Lady". After her fourth ultra-distance endurance event within a two-month period, Newby-Fraser will have earned a well-deserved rest. Only two weeks ago, she was victorious in Lake Biwa, Japan.

**Today**

**CRICKET**

**Benson and Hedges Cup**  
Final  
11.00 on 55  
**LORD'S**, Hampshire v Kent

**Tour match**  
One day  
**GLASGOW**, Scotland v Pakistan (11.00)

**BOWLS**

**WOLVOUGH SCOTTISH MASTERS**  
(Aberdeen)  
**WOLVOUGH BANK MIDDLETON CUP**  
Group 1: Section A, Northumberland v Derbyshire (at Portland) Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire (King's Ground, v Glasgow) Scotland v Durham v Cornwall (throughout Dany Lane, Lincolnshire)  
Group 2: Section A, Northamptonshire v Wellingborough Huntingdonshire (at Wellingborough) Huntingdonshire v Northamptonshire (at Wellingborough)

**LEICESTER: Leicestershire**  
Worcestershire  
**TALINOT**, Somerset v Durham  
**THE CIVIL**, Surrey v Derbyshire  
**SCARBOROUGH**, Yorkshire v Essex  
**Tour match**  
One day  
**GLASGOW**, Scotland v Pakistan (11.00)  
**MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Warrington Cheshire v Shropshire  
Bromleyham Herefordshire v Dorset

**OTHER SPORT**

**ATHLETICS**: Welsh Masters (Cwmbran)  
**BOWLS**: Woolwich Scottish Masters (Aberdeen)  
**GOLF**: Open Championship, final (quality round) (Dublin), Gullane No 1, Cullinstown, Mullin Mullin Breen  
**NETBALL**: Women's world championship (at Conway)  
**MOTOR RACING**: British Grand Prix (Silverstone)  
**SHOOTING**: 12000 Belsky meeting  
**SPEEDWAY**: Hoveville International, Epsom  
**SWIMMING**: Celtic Sea Race, Wex  
**TENNIS**: LTA Challenge Trophy, Histon

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# Strong grounds for sticking with Steerforth in cup

STEERFORTH is taken to win the John Smith's Magnat Cup at York today now that there will be some give in the ground.

The news that plenty of rain had fallen on the Knavesmire three nights ago was sweet news to the ears of Alec Stewart, who said all along that the prevailing conditions were a prerequisite for Steerforth to win.

In contrast fellow Newmarket trainer Geoff Wragg was not pleased with the weather because he wanted fast ground for the bottom weight, Wild Fire.

Had he had it, Wild Fire would have had a great chance of going one better than he did at Royal Ascot where he was beaten into second place in the King George V Handicap.

As it is Steerforth now gets the vote following that less than perfect performance on Saturday. On that occasion he lost a good position when badly checked three-quarters of a mile from home.

After that he was always fighting a losing battle in the race that ultimately went to Fire Top. Yet he was still beaten only just over three lengths in fifth place at the end.

It was at this stage of the season last year that Steerforth ran out an impressive winner of a ten-furlong handicap at Newmarket. This year his activity has been restricted because his stable has

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

been laid low with a virus. However, that very promising run at Sandown was a strong hint of better things to come. It is virtually impossible to separate Lucky Guest and Legal View who had the finish of a similar race on today's track in June to themselves.

On that occasion they carried the same weight and Lucky Guest won by a short head. On 1lb better terms Legal View could well come out in front this time, especially as that was his first race of the season.

The softer ground will also favour Arany, whose stable came up trumps with Halkopous on the corresponding occasion last year. It will also help Mr Confusion



Stewart: heartened by midweek rain at York

in his attempt to complete a four-timer.

Had he chance of winning the Foster's Silver Cup at Ascot in the spring when the going was similar and Parting Moment was among those behind him. At his best, Hated is capable of outpacing Gondolier over this trip.

Alderney Prince, who started 2-1 on before he made a winning debut at Chesham, a fortnight ago, is taken to keep Paul Cole's flag flying at full mast by winning the Friarage Graduation Stakes.

By all accounts, his unraced stable companion Clear Look will also be hard to beat in the Myrobelli Maiden Stakes at Salisbury where Semillon is fancied to win the first division of the Queenport Maiden Stakes, the race that saw stable companion Theorins on his way last year.

Thourins, who finished seventh in the 2,000 Guineas, drops back in distance for the Calor Silver Trophy at Lingfield, having tried unsuccessfully to get further, first in the Derby then at Royal Ascot.

In this instance, though, I am content to go nap on John Gosden's filly Tussard, who is clearly improving with every race, judged on the way that she accounted for the Jersey Stakes winner Prince Ferdinand and Casteddu at Newmarket a fortnight ago.

## Duffield to fill another gap

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

GEORGE Duffield is verging on the veteran ranks but was winning his first English classic when scoring on User Friendly in the Gold Seal Oaks at Epsom last month.

He now looks to this same filly to fill another gap in his racing career by winning an Irish classic, the Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks, at the Curragh this afternoon.

It was certainly a most stylish performance which User Friendly produced at Epsom where, in the closing stages, she went right away from the Henry Cecil-trained favourite

All At Sea to win by three-and-a-half lengths with a 20-length gap to the third.

Unraced at two, User Friendly is still improving, according to her trainer, Clive Brittain, who also expects his second string Armarama to give a good account of herself. However, Armarama is held by Iyanna on Oaks d'Italia form, finishing a length behind the Bolger filly, who was having her first run of the season at San Siro.

The Curragh has had its fair share of rain during the

past few days and although it was drying out yesterday, further rain was forecast overnight.

It proves to be correct, it could militate against another smart Irish runner Market Booter. She has a lot of speed as was demonstrated when she upset Ruby Tiger in the ten-furlong Irish Independent Pretty Polly Stakes.

Demot Weld makes no secret of his fear that Market Booter might not last out the extra quarter of a mile on anything other than really fast ground.

A strong-finishing third in the Pretty Polly was the Aga Khan's Khanata, but she has been difficult to train and John Oxx would have welcomed more time for her preparation.

Maurice Zilber, who produced the greatest of all Irish Oaks winners in Dublin, now runs Pina Blanche, but she finished well down the field in the French Derby behind Polytan and prior to that had won only in listed company at Evry.

She would need to make considerable improvement to get in the blow here against User Friendly and Iyanna who could fight out a tight finish with victory going to the rider.

GOING: GOOD

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

### 3.20 KILDANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS

(3-Y-O fillies; £121,000; 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1-20212 ARMARAMA 7 (J.P. O'Donnell) (J. Bolger) 9-0  
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## YORK

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Gowing Jade.	2.00 Olavdi.	2.35 Alderney Prince.
2.35 Alderney Prince.	2.35 Alderney Prince.	3.15 In Case.
3.10 Sandown Denim.	3.10 Sandown Denim.	3.40 Hated.
4.15 Steerforth.	4.15 Steerforth.	4.45 First Gold.
5.15 In Case.	5.15 In Case.	5.15 In Case.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 Gondolier. 4.15 Steerforth.  
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 GLOWING JADE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

### 2.00 JERVAUL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O; £2,205; 8f) (20 runners)		
101 (12)	ASTRIAD TRO (2 Year Old) 8-0	8-0
102 (12)	THE HAPPY HOUR (Thames T Time Club) 8-0	8-0
103 (12)	OLIVADA (Eure Marine Park) 8-0	8-0
104 (12)	DIG COPTRELL 14 (W) (Westcott) 8-0	8-0
105 (12)	HONEY LUCKY (2 Year Old) 8-0	8-0
106 (12)	THE RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
107 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
108 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
109 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
110 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
111 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
112 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
113 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
114 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
115 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
116 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
117 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
118 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
119 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
120 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
121 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
122 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
123 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
124 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
125 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
126 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
127 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
128 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
129 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
130 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
131 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
132 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
133 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
134 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
135 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
136 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
137 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
138 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
139 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
140 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
141 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
142 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
143 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
144 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
145 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
146 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
147 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
148 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
149 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0
150 (12)	RUSHALONG BLUFF 50 (P) (Widmore) 8-0	8-0



Hampshire have a score to settle at Lord's today with Benson and Hedges Cup on the line

# Kentish pride out to deny Marshall's final ambition

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE common denominator of the Kent players who contest today's Benson and Hedges Cup final is that none of them has won anything in county cricket. Their common fear, however, will concern a man who has done almost, but not quite, everything.

Malcolm Marshall came to Hampshire in 1979. Kent, at the time, were both county champions and holders of the Benson and Hedges Cup. Since then, Kent have struggled in vain to restore some silverware to their trophy cabinet while Marshall has pursued a private dream of winning a Lord's Cup final. The twin ambitions collide today and only one can be fulfilled.

The omission in Marshall's career is remarkable. He did play in the 1983 World Cup final, which West Indies lost to India, but on the two occasions that Hampshire have reached Lord's, winning both times, he was on Test match duty. It has gnawed increasingly at his subconscious and was a compelling factor behind his signature on a new contract when, at 34, and with nothing left to prove, a quiet retirement in his native Barbados was an attractive option.

Slimmer, fitter and more obviously motivated than for

HAMPSHIRE (from): V P Terry, T C Middleton, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (capt), K D James, M D Marshall, R J Parks, S D Udell, R J Marr, C A Connor, J R Ayling, A N Aymes, P J Bekker.

KENT (from): T R Ward, M R Benson (capt), N R Taylor, G R Cowdrey, C Hooper, M V Fleming, S A Marsh, M A Ealham, R P Dave, M J McCague, A P Igglesden, R M Ellison.

some seasons, Marshall now has his day and he had better enjoy it while he can for, by winning a coincidental dress-rehearsal on Thursday, Kent have already ensured that this is Hampshire's only chance of cup success this year.

Defeat in the NatWest Trophy, which they held, ranked with Hampshire and this could work to their advantage today. "OK, so they won the first one," Mark Nicholas, the captain, said yesterday, leaving any threat or promise unspoken.

Nicholas was far from happy with his side's performance on Thursday, citing the careless run-outs of himself and Robin Smith and an unacceptable number of no-balls, notably from Marshall, as crucial factors. He does not discount a change or two, to what has been a very settled limited-overs side, even if one

is not forced by Cardigan Connor's hamstring strain.

Weather conditions may sway a decision on whether Hampshire shelve their regular policy of playing two slow bowlers. Mann, who conceded 61 runs on Thursday, could make way for the seam bowler, Ayling, who might alternatively win a place at the expense of James.

Ayling, aged 25, has not fully justified the high opinions many hold of him but it was his coolly assertive batting that saw Hampshire to victory in the NatWest Trophy final last year, a day which Nicholas recalls with confused emotions.

Nicholas missed the final it had always been his ambition to play in, having had his knuckle rearranged by Wagar Younis three days earlier. He has pessimistically been dreading something similar this time but the eloquent Nicholas survives to bid for a fourth one-day trophy in his eight years as captain.

Perhaps his toughest decision today concerns his wicketkeeper. Adrian Aymes has been out for almost a month, first through injury and then because he could not displace Bob Parks, unexpectedly reviving his career at the age of 33. Aymes is now fit and has a big-match temperament but it would be a gamble to recall him.

If a Hampshire appearance at Lord's is now becoming routine, Kent's progress is more of a surprise. It is far from being a fluke, however, as they won their four group games with authority, all against first-class opposition, and have developed an efficient formula, which overcomes their shortage of stars. The acquisition of Carl Hooper has been influential. So too, the mature input of Mark Ealham, aged 22 and the son of Alan Ealham, whose flair as batsman and fielder was such a feature of the Kent side that won four cup finals in five seasons between 1974 and 1978.

Alan Ealham was captain of the 1978 double winners but for Kent, there has been nothing since. The young Ealham will be in good company as he charts new ground today but, like the others, he will have been primed by the partnership that has done so much to restore Kentish pride.

Mark Benson has worked with his Australian coach, Daryl Foster, as effectively as did Chris Cowdrey with John Inverarity. That pairing so nearly won Kent the 1988 championship; for Benson and Foster, another near miss just will not do. I fancy, though, that the strength and experience of Hampshire's batting will be all too much for them.



Driving force: Fleming's forceful play will be a key feature for Kent today

HAMPSHIRE									
Batting and fielding	M	NO	R	HS	100	50	4s	6s	SR
D J Gower	1	0	229	109	1	0	1	0	114.50
R A Smith	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
V P Terry	1	0	107	107	0	0	1	0	107.00
T C Middleton	1	0	107	107	0	0	1	0	107.00
K D James	1	0	59	30	0	0	1	0	59.00
M C J Nicholas	1	0	41	18	0	0	1	0	41.00
R J Parks	1	0	11	11	0	0	1	0	11.00
R J Marr	1	0	11	11	0	0	1	0	11.00
R J Ayling	1	0	11	11	0	0	1	0	11.00
C A Connor	1	0	11	11	0	0	1	0	11.00
S D Udell	1	0	11	11	0	0	1	0	11.00
Bowling	O	M	R	W	4s	6s	SR	SR	SR
M D Marshall	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
G R Cowdrey	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
C A Hooper	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
R J Ayling	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
K D James	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04

KENT									
Batting and fielding	M	NO	R	HS	100	50	4s	6s	SR
M V Fleming	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
G R Cowdrey	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
N R Taylor	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
M J McCague	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
M R Benson	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
J R Ayling	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
M A Ealham	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
R P Dave	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
S A Marsh	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
C Hooper	1	0	114	88	0	0	1	0	114.00
Bowling	O	M	R	W	4s	6s	SR	SR	SR
M J McCague	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
R M Ellison	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
M A Ealham	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
C Hooper	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
A P Igglesden	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04

## Fleming's devil-may-care image belies sound technique



Fleming: ambitious

IN ONE sense, Matthew Valentine Fleming was born in the wrong era. He is the personification of the amateur cricketer who belts the ball back over the bowler's head without due concern for batting average or pay packet. If it does not come off, no matter. His family, after all, control the second most profitable merchant bank in the City of London.

By another reckoning, he is an all-rounder for his time. Kent's recent history is littered with individuals over-anxious about their future should they fail to eke out their 1,200 runs a season. For Fleming, the forward defensive barely exists.

Already this season he has won three Benson and Hedges gold awards, been man of the match in the NatWest Trophy and struck 74 off 44 balls against the Pakistanis. He is one of the most dangerous one-day cricketers in the game.

Such performances have earned Fleming the respect of those who would take his place. Chris Penn, one of Kent's plethora of all-rounders, is an unqualified admirer. "Match-winners are more important to a county than those who grind it out. Sometimes I want to thump Matthew, because he can start to win a game and not finish off the opposition, but more often I like to hug him. And no one

has been kinder or more helpful, which was not what I expected from someone of his high-society profile."

Fleming's background — Old Etonian, Green Jacket, great nephew of Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond — has, coupled with his dashing cricket, been manna for the tabloid press. His family, staunch villagers who go around with holes in their pullovers and are first to contribute to the mending of the church roof, have tired of the publicity. (In light of their son's batting, they would do well to change the name of their Kentish mansion, Stone-wall Park).

Fleming, say his colleagues, secretly loves the constant

newspaper allusion to 007's latest zest for life.

He became a county cricketer at a relatively advanced age, 24, after only two years in the Eton XI and captaining the Army. "Some people on Kent's committee were a little sceptical about taking me on. At school I was only an average player and I don't know why I improved."

"I have an eye for the ball, I suppose. It's not true that serving in Northern Ireland, being trained that death could always occur, made me play as if there were more important things in life than cricket. In truth, I have always hit the ball," Fleming said.

So, should he be the match-winner again today, in the

Benson and Hedges Cup final against Hampshire, he prepared, too, for his name to be put forward for one-day international cricket.

"Matthew is one of the most explosive limited-overs players I have seen," Daryl Foster, Kent's coach, said. "He is not just a blitzy player who can dispose of the ball willy-nilly. He has a very good technique, and that, plus his bowling, means he is one of a group of players who could be considered by England."

Fleming, now 27, will tell you he is not good enough, and in late-night pleasantries can rue that his background does not fit into England's perceived meritocracy. He

might be surprised to learn that Mickey Stewart, his England manager, bristles at the suggestion that his own upbringing had more in common with that of Graham Gooch than David Gower.

Besides, although Fleming might play in the spirit of the ancients, he is decidedly ambitious. For one thing, he is far more keen to captain Kent than he is to go into merchant banking.

"At the back of my mind I know that if I fail it is not the end of the world," he said. "When I joined Kent, I was great. Colin Page told me I would win some matches and at other times look silly and annoy a lot of people. He was usually right."

## Warwickshire v Sussex

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire beat Sussex by three wickets

SUSSEX									
Batting and fielding	M	NO	R	HS	100	50	4s	6s	SR
D M Smith	1	0	22	22	0	0	1	0	22.00
N J Hall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
N J Latham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
A P Wells	1	0	47	47	0	0	1	0	47.00
M P Siddle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
K Greenfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
P D Shepherson	1	0	40	40	0	0	1	0	40.00
M P Siddle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
A C S Piggott	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
D G Salisbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
A H Jones	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Bowling	O	M	R	W	4s	6s	SR	SR	SR
D M Smith	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
N J Latham	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
A P Wells	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
M P Siddle	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04
K Greenfield	1	0	147	9	1	0	2.80	11.33	5.43/04

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-45, 3-45, 4-55, 5-65, 6-120, 7-120, 8-120, 9-120, 10-120, 11-120, 12-120, 13-120, 14-120, 15-120, 16-120, 17-120, 18-120, 19-120, 20-120, 21-120, 22-120, 23-120, 24-120, 25-120, 26-120, 27-120, 28-120, 29-120, 30-120, 31-120, 32-120, 33-120, 34-120, 35-120, 36-120, 37-120, 38-120, 39-120, 40-120, 41-120, 42-120, 43-120, 44-120, 45-120, 46-120, 47-120, 48-120, 49-120, 50-120, 51-120, 52-120, 53-120, 54-120, 55-120, 56-120, 57-120, 58-120, 59-120, 60-120, 61-120, 62-120, 63-120, 64-120, 65-120, 66-120, 67-120, 68-120, 69-120, 70-120, 71-120, 72-120, 73-120, 74-120, 75-120, 76-120, 77-120, 78-120, 79-120, 80-120, 81-120, 82-120, 83-120, 84-120, 85-120, 86-120, 87-120, 88-120, 89-120, 90-120, 91-120, 92-120, 93-120, 94-120, 95-120, 96-120, 97-120, 98-120, 99-120, 100-120, 101-120, 102-120, 103-120, 104-120, 105-120, 106-120, 107-120, 108-120, 109-120, 110-120, 111-120, 112-120, 113-120, 114-120, 115-120, 116-120, 117-120, 118-120, 119-120, 120-120, 121-120, 122-120, 123-120, 124-120, 125-120, 126-120, 127-120, 128-120, 129-120, 130-120, 131-120, 132-120, 133-120, 134-120, 135-120, 136-120, 137-120, 138-120, 139-120, 140-120, 141-120, 142-120, 143-120, 144-120, 145-120, 146-120, 147-120, 148-120, 149-120, 150-120, 151-120, 152-120, 153-120, 154-120, 155-120, 156-120, 157-120, 158-120, 159-120, 160-120, 161-120, 162-120, 163-120, 164-120, 165-120, 166-120, 167-120, 168-120, 169-120, 170-120, 171-120, 172-120, 173-120, 174-120, 175-120, 176-120, 177-120, 178-120, 179-120, 180-120, 181-120, 182-120, 183-120, 184-120, 185-120, 186-120, 187-120, 188-120, 189-120, 190-120, 191-120, 192-120, 193-120, 194-120, 195-120, 196-120, 197-120, 198-120, 199-120, 200-120, 201-120, 202-120, 203-120, 204-120, 205-120, 206-120, 207-120, 208-120, 209-120, 210-120, 211-120, 212-120, 213-120, 214-120, 215-120, 216-120, 217-120, 218-120, 219-120, 220-120, 221-120, 222-120, 223-120, 224-120, 225-120, 226-120, 227-120, 228-120, 229-120, 230-120, 231-120, 232-120, 233-120, 234-120, 235-120, 236-120, 237-120, 238-120, 239-120, 240-120, 241-120, 242-120, 243-120, 244-120, 245-120, 246-120, 247-120, 248-120, 249-120, 250-120, 251-120, 252-120, 253-120, 254-120, 255-120, 256-120, 257-120, 258-120, 259-120, 260-120, 261-120, 262-120, 263-120, 264-120, 265-120, 266-120, 267-120, 268-120, 269-120, 270-120, 271-120, 272-120, 273-120, 274-120, 275-120, 276-120, 277-120, 278-120, 279-120, 280-120, 281-120, 282-120, 283-120, 284-120, 285-120, 286-120, 287-120, 288-120, 289-120, 290-120, 291-120, 292-120, 293-120, 294-120, 295-120, 296-120, 297-120, 298-120, 299-120, 300-120, 301-120, 302-120, 303-120, 304-120, 305-120, 306-120, 307-120, 308-120, 309-120, 310-120, 311-120, 312-120, 313-120, 314-120, 315-120, 316-120, 317-120, 318-120, 319-120, 320-120, 321-120, 322-120, 323-120, 324-120, 325-120, 326-120, 327-120, 328-120, 329-120, 330-120, 331-120, 332-120, 333-120, 334-120, 335-120, 336-120, 337-120, 338-120, 339-120, 340-120, 341-120, 342-120, 343-120, 344-120, 345-120, 346-120, 347-120, 348-120, 349-120, 350-120, 351-120, 352-120, 353-120, 354-120, 355-120, 356-120, 357-120, 358-120, 359-120, 360-120, 361-120, 362-120, 363-120, 364-120, 365-120, 366-120, 367-120, 368-120, 369-120, 370-120, 371-120, 372-120, 373-120, 374-120, 375-120, 376-120, 377-120, 378-120, 379-120, 380-120, 381-120, 382-120, 383-120, 384-120, 385-120, 386-120, 387-120, 388-120, 389-120, 390-120, 391-120, 392-120, 393-120, 394-120, 395-120, 396-120, 397-120, 398-120, 399-120, 400-120, 401-120, 402-120, 403-120, 404-120, 405-120, 406-120, 407-120, 408-120, 409-120, 410-120, 411-120, 412-120, 413-120, 414-120, 415-120, 416-120, 417-120, 418-120, 419-120, 420-120, 421-120, 422-120, 423-120, 424-120, 425-120, 426-120, 427-120, 428-120, 429-120, 430-120, 431-120, 432-120, 433-120, 434-120, 435-120, 436-120, 437-120, 438-120, 439-120, 440-120, 441-120, 442-120, 443-120, 444-120, 445-120, 446-120, 447-120, 448-120, 449-120, 450-120, 451-120, 452-120, 453-120, 454-120, 455-120, 456-120, 457-120, 458-120, 459-120, 460-120, 461-120, 462-120, 463-120, 464-120, 465-120, 466-120, 467-120, 468-120, 469-120, 470-120, 471-120, 472-120, 473-120, 474-120, 475-120, 4



# Montgomery tries too hard with lead in his sights

**Moving camp**  
American football: The owner of the Super Bowl champions, Washington Redskins, is planning to move the team out of the capital to a new 78,500-seat stadium at an unused railway yard in Alexandria, Virginia.

Med. 48.86m. Intermediates: 3,000m: J. Mackay (Harris), Brin 46.59sec. Discus: C. Davies (Berks), 39.52m. Juniors: High Jump: K. Durham (Cumbria), 1.89m. Long Jump: A. Lewis (Chesh), 5.48m. Shot: C. Barnett (Surrey), 12.29m. Javelin: C. Wynne-Pink (Surrey), 40.54m.

**THE RENTALS**  
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RENTALS APPEAR TO ADVANCE  
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071-481 1980



British supporters gather in their thousands in anticipation of home success

## Britain ready to sweep the board

By NORMAN HOWELL

THE quarter of a million British supporters who have already taken over the fields and car parks around Silverstone would provide the perfect backdrop for not only an historic win by Nigel Mansell in the British grand prix on Sunday but also for what may have, until recently, been considered a madman's wishful thinking — three British drivers on the podium.

The other men in question — assuming that Zeus, or whoever is the racing drivers' god, doesn't send a bolt of lightning out of the great Northamptonshire sky to stop Mansell in his tracks — are Martin Brundle and Johnny Herbert.

Mansell had a tremendous day yesterday, setting the best time a full two seconds ahead of his team-mate, Riccardo Patrese.

Brundle did not have a good day but the man, the car and the team is such that the set-up problems he had will be overcome in time for the timed session today.

"There is lots of pressure," Brundle said, "but, oddly enough, it doesn't come from the Nigel-mania or the fact that we are at Silverstone. It stems from my result in France last week."

"I have never had so many microphones, cameras and notebooks pointed at me since then."

"It's flattering, of course, but, this morning, I had to remind myself that I am a racing driver. Maybe that's why I didn't drive as well in the timed session."

Brundle is sure there will be a Benetton driver on the rostrum on Sunday. "Well, we can't do much about the Williams, can we?" he said.

"But we can have a good go at the others; and I'd love to be up there myself."

Herbert still has a bit of a hobbie from the horrific accident he had at Brands Hatch in a Formula 3000 race in 1988, when he nearly lost the use of both legs. He said he feels the pressure less.

"Yes, I get a bit nervous before the race," he said. "But it doesn't really matter to me that it is Silverstone. I am lucky that I am not so well known and so I don't have the kind of media pressure that Nigel or Ayrton have."

"That must be hard to handle. But I always stop for autograph hunters. This is sport and these are the supporters."

"It's why we're here," said Herbert, who always manages

a smile for anyone who wants to talk to him.

The expectations are high here at Silverstone. This is truly a race track, challenging for the drivers who race in front of a very knowledgeable crowd.

Yesterday, the first day of practice, the stands were full to near capacity, a sea of Union Jacks and Mansell banners.

"Il Leone", as the British fans have also taken to calling him — after his time at Ferrari, where he was much loved by the passionate Italian fans — is relaxed.

Yesterday, he mauled the opposition. By shattering the circuit record over and over again, he has dealt a grievous blow to all the other pretenders.

This is his track and he is king.

Brundle and Herbert are both excellent drivers with good cars.

The slightest wavering by the McLarens will open the door for two British drivers who could be standing next to the future world champion in front of 120,000 people.

The attendances are already up on last year. There are some tickets left but, as Silverstone spokeswoman said:

"If Nigel goes on pole on Saturday, we may actually reach the capacity 180,000."

Nigel-mania has allowed some of the other matters to go on more discreetly than usual. One is that Ayrton Senna has talked at length about the drivers' market.

"For once, I am not dictating it," he said. "There is no doubt that I am in a position to change teams and I have had talks with a number of people over the past 15 days, though nothing has been decided."

"I will make my decision much earlier than last year but it all hinges on Alain Prost. He is the joker in the pack this year."

This will not come as good news for McLaren who, by their standards, have had a disastrous year so far. Senna has intimated that money has become less important.

"What matters more nowadays is the technical package in a team," he said. If technical considerations are paramount, there is another man who is out of Formula One but who like Prost, is a proven winner.

John Barnard, the creator of the world championship-winning McLaren, who then went to Ferrari and to Benetton, has



Plugged in: Brundle prepares for his morning practice session at the Silverstone circuit yesterday

recently been linked with a possible Toyota entry into Formula One.

But he has also had talks with both McLaren and Ferrari. If Barnard were involved in a team, then Senna would consider that team seriously.

Asked whether, in talks with

Ferrari, he had asked for Barnard to go there, too, as a condition of his joining the Italian team, Senna had a long pause. Then he said: "Barnard is a winner."

The final words of the day, though, belong to the on-track winner, Mansell. "I shall let the journalists describe my

lap," he said. "I am only the driver."

"This is a circuit where you have to give your all, total commitment. I can do something really special here at Silverstone. This is one of the most gruelling circuits in the world."

"I am aching all over but now I have to think about the next qualifying session."

"I now have to do some more homework as it looks as if it is going to rain tomorrow."

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Practice times, page 34  
Hi-tech changes, page 35

## Government to allow standing room at games

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE government yesterday confirmed that third and fourth division football clubs will be allowed to retain standing accommodation, but insisted that all second division clubs must have all-seater stadiums by August 1994.

In a parliamentary written answer, David Mellor, the secretary of state for national heritage, waived the government's original commitment to all-seater stadiums in the four divisions by 1999, as recommended by Lord Justice Taylor in his report into the Hillsborough disaster.

For some time the government has indicated that it was rethinking its attitude on all-seater grounds throughout the league, which from next month will be restructured into a premier league, and the first, second and third divisions. However, the decision will be a blow to many second division clubs, and particularly those campaigning for the retention of terraces.

Mellor stated that the government would continue with the existing policy, pointing out that many clubs have recently played in the higher divisions. "All of them should aspire to do so. I have no doubt that they will all want to prepare themselves to put their aspirations into practice by pressing ahead vigorously

with all-seater policy."

The government considered whether to allow second division clubs, with average attendances of less than 10,000, to retain their terraces. However, after six weeks of negotiations with the football authorities, Mellor decided that it would create difficulties if some clubs in the division were all-seater and some were not. Clubs who get promoted into the new premier and first divisions have three years to convert their stadiums.

Throughout the discussions the government has insisted that the safety of spectators must be the most important consideration after the disaster at Hillsborough, when 95 people were crushed to death — it insists that terracing for the lower two divisions must, in any case, pass the safety regulations of the local authorities and the football licensing authority.

Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Staleybridge and Hyde and chairman of the all-party parliamentary committee on football, welcomed the announcement, saying that it showed good sense.

The government is likely to confirm that it will continue allowing the reduction in the betting duty on football totalling £20 million a year to be used until 1999 for safety measures in the four divisions.

## Games doubts over last-placed Yates

MATTHEW Yates, the European indoor 1,500 metres champion, is struggling to meet his deadline to prove his fitness for the Olympic Games (David Powell writes).

In his return to international competition last night, following a four-week break due to illness, Yates finished eleventh and last in a B-string 800 metres in the TSB grand prix at Crystal Palace.

Yates was a late inclusion in the field. His comeback had begun when he raced in Wafford on Wednesday, winning a modest 1,500 metres in 3min 49.1sec. But last night Yates looked nowhere near the standard needed for the Olympics, which begin in three weeks' time, as he was to the rear of the field from start to finish. The race was won by

his fellow Briton, David Strang, in 1:46.54. Yates was three seconds down on what he needed, with 1:49.86.

Britain's selectors, who picked Yates for the Olympic team on condition that he proved his fitness before July 21, will not have been impressed by what they saw last night. Now Yates has little more than a week to show that he is worth taking to Barcelona.

Yates, Britain's only 1,500 metres finalist at the world championships last year, will now have to go chasing around Europe to find a race in which he can attempt to meet the selectors' standard. If he fails, then the reserve, Steve Crabb, of Enfield, will be brought in to join Kevin McKay and Peter Elliott.

### ANNOUNCING 'ELECT 17' A BREAKTHROUGH IN HEALTH INSURANCE

#### That slashes premiums by up to two thirds

WPA, one of Britain's largest health insurers, have introduced 'Elect 17', a first-ever policy that gives immediate treatment for the 17 medical conditions most claimed for on health insurance. They are also those conditions that have a direct effect on the quality of life and feature on NHS hospital waiting lists.

#### Why you should choose 'ELECT 17'

- Premiums up to two thirds less than those charged for other private health schemes.
- Immediate acceptance, no medical history.
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### Williams joins Ipswich for a club record fee

IPSWICH Town have signed Geraint Williams from Derby County for £650,000 — a club record fee. Last season's second division champions have strengthened their midfield for the Premier League by signing the Welsh international, who has played 11 times for his country.

Williams, who has signed a four-year contract, said: "Not many players get the chance to move up a division at my age and it is nice to be going from one excellent manager, Arthur Cox, to another."

John Lyall, the Ipswich manager, said: "We are delighted to have signed a quality player. He should become a vital factor in our efforts to achieve success."

The previous Ipswich record was the £330,000 they paid Manchester City for Brian Gayle in January 1990.

□ The former England defender, Terry Butcher, aged 33, has joined the FA Cup finalists, Sunderland, on a two-month trial. If all goes well he will sign on for the rest of the campaign.

### Burning to make history

When this newspaper lists the results of the qualifying rounds of the Open golf Championship, it is the custom to follow the name of the player with the name of his club. Pity the poor sub-editor the other night, who was confronted with the line "J Burns Jimmy Burns". Following the ancient and proven maxim — if in doubt, leave it out — he did so. J Burns made the paper without mention of club. This brought the sternest rebuke imaginable: "A serious omission and a possible oversight of history in the making," read a letter, showing no ambition to make light of the matter. For Jimmy Burns was representing, yes, the Jimmy Burns Golf Club. The official programme lists him as JIMMY BURNS, Jimmy Burns. Jimmy doesn't belong to a club;

the club belongs to him. The club is based in Essex, but this week I am eschewing cheap jokes, especially on such a serious subject. JIMMY BURNS, Jimmy Burns, plays his next qualifying round at North Berwick tomorrow, and Inger Perkins, secretary and manager of the Jimmy Burns Golf Club, will no doubt be agog for his Monday Times. History, as he so rightly says, is in the making.

#### Ring of roses

Readers of this space will recall Mike Morrison, the boxer with a record of 29 fights and one win. He was barred from boxing, appealed and took his case to the British Boxing Board of Control. Amazingly, he won. Even more amazingly, he then knocked out Steve Howden of Sheffield. "Most of my defeats were by the narrowest of margins, and a lot were home town decisions," he said. This is the first chance I had to prepare properly, and now I'm looking for a Welsh title fight. It's no secret that I used to like a few drinks, but I never let anyone down in the ring."

### Overloaded managers earn £116,000

By JOHN GOODBODY

FIRST division football managers are paid an average basic salary of £116,600, plus bonuses, car expenses, free meals at work and business entertaining expenses, a survey revealed yesterday.

But there is a huge difference in managerial pay across the league: 84 per cent in the fourth division get less than £28,500 — many as little as £18,200 — and none are paid more than £32,000.

However, the report compiled by Stoy Hayward, a firm of Nottingham chartered accountants, for the League Managers' Association, also showed how demanding the job is: 40 per cent of first division managers do not take their full holiday entitlement and "there is little evidence that clubs are taking adequate steps to protect their managers' health."

The report added: "There should be a determined effort to ensure that all clubs pay for their managers to be given a detailed medical examination."

On average most managers watch two games a week to assess teams and individuals in addition to those involving their own club, illustrating their heavy workload.

Answering a questionnaire, 20 per cent of the first division and 27 per cent of the second division managers received signing-on fees when they joined their present clubs and the average length of service is four years in the first division, 2.7 in the second and third and 1.6 in the fourth.

The report concluded that 40 per cent of managers do not have fixed salary increases or protection from inflation built into their agreements. "This means the true value of

salaries could have fallen over a four-year contract period by as much as 30 per cent in the extreme cases when annual salary is fixed for the whole term of the agreement."

Forty per cent of managers in the first division have agreed dismissal compensation packages in advance, but only eight per cent of the fourth division have such an accord.

The report states: "There is no better time psychologically to negotiate compensation payable when a manager is sacked than just before he signs the service agreement."

### Up the pole

It is getting to the sort of time when one considers Olympic ideals: how the youth of the world meet in glorious harmony, safe from the evils of politics and nationalism — and then the winner prances about the track waving his national flag in everybody's face.

The choreographed jingoistic lap of honour, run for the benefit of politicians and/or marketing men, and always featuring a bedspread-sized flag flched from a patriot in the crowd, is the most stomach-churning sight of the modern Olympic Games, and the competition for that accolade is pretty intense.

But I have cheering news. Maureen Pieri, of the British Athletics Supporters Club (no cheap jokes about that title from me) has informed all members: "Flags for personal use must be of standard size, between 30 and 40cm long and 20 to 30cm wide with a soft plastic pole."

Bigger flags, she says, will be confiscated. Bad news for marketing men and politicians, that can only mean

good news for the rest of the world.

### Short shrift

After last weekend's historic all-bicycle shorts final at Wimbledon, I receive at last an answer to my overwhelming question: why do they wear them? "The second pair of shorts, underneath the originals, now termed 'Energy shorts' are worn for functional rather than fashionable reasons." I am told by Shaun Ambrose-Jones, of Penn-Nyla company, manufacturer of Active Sportswear fabric. He says that two academic institutions have conducted research into Energy Shorts, and "confirmed that the benefits are actual rather than purely psychological. Essentially these are: 1. Efficiency of muscles. In the right fibres, temperatures can be regulated, actually delaying the point of exhaustion, and 2. Power: acceleration gain. Reaching a maximum quicker and maintaining it longer." You can't argue with facts like those. Any chance of getting a pair for my horse?

### SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

□ If the gatemen at Lord's ever need a refresher course, a week's secondment to the Spanish customs could do the trick. Ron Clarke, now 55, the former Olympic runner, did a stint-carrying the Olympic torch, and was allowed to keep his torch as a souvenir. The customs officers took one look at it, and confiscated the thing.

### Pigs will

After this year's French Revolution and the blockade of the canionistes comes the anguish. A Belgian driver, transporting 300 pigs, was caught in a blockade. The pigs, driven mad by starvation and heat, were attacking and even devouring each other. So the driver released all 300 into the Carpentras football stadium. The groundsman cooled off the beasts with a hose, and they were given such things as melons to eat. They also managed to eat the entire playing surface. The club is now trying to reclaim the money from the blockaders.







# WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY JULY 11 1992

PASSPORT TO

FRANCE

PAGES 7, 10, 15



## Fairway or foul play

Teed off: while proponents say golf courses act as protection against urban encroachment, local protesters blame them for the ruination of the rural English landscape

The narrow lanes that meander across the countryside around the village of Helidon, in Northamptonshire, do not seem to lead anywhere in particular. For the most part they follow ancient farm tracks, familiar enough to locals, but among which strangers easily lose their sense of direction and need to rely on infrequent and sometimes muddling signposts.

So it is all the more incongruous to be confronted with notices pointing the way to the Helidon Lakes Golf Club and Hotel. Here, in archetypal rural England, one expects a gentle rolling vista of fields, hedges and spinneys: lakes and golf courses suggest an altogether different, more artificial, suburban landscape.

Yet Helidon Lakes is only one of eight golf courses within the area administered by Daventry district council, with a population of slightly fewer than 65,000. In addition, although planning consent has been refused for three courses, it has been granted for six more. That, in the view of many residents, is too many.

The issue has sharply divided local opinion, to the point where formerly friendly neighbours have become strangers, even enemies. Those who argue that a landscape which has evolved over centuries is threatened by drastic change are accused of self-interest in seeking to block developments for which there is a ready market, and which could bring new jobs. "People who have been friends for years have suddenly stopped talking to each other," one villager comments.

The Sports Council has said that, nationally, it would like to see two courses for every 30,000 people (there are at present some 2,000 courses in Britain, and planning applications for a further 1,400 in process). But its concern is with the provision of sports facilities for local people at affordable prices. It would welcome more cheap and simple courses where those who have never held a driver or a putter in their hands, particularly young people, can learn the rudiments without the expense and, in some cases, the discrimination attached to conventional club membership.

However, this concept is of little interest to developers. In most cases what they want to build are expensive complexes, top-class courses with luxury clubhouses and, if they can persuade the planning authorities, hotels and "leisure facilities" attached. If local people can afford the membership subscriptions, fair enough, but the market they are really aiming for is further afield.

Until now, the countryside east of Banbury, Oxfordshire, has remained curiously empty: not in the sense of being abandoned, but in having been largely spared the

pressure for new settlements. Only a few miles to the east lies the M1, Britain's first motorway, opened in the late 1950s to speed traffic between London and the Midlands and regarded at the time as one of the wonders of the age. Roughly the same distance to the west is the northern extension of the M40, constructed more than a generation later for precisely the same purpose. Between the two thundering arteries all still appears tranquil and serene.

Not entirely, however. The motorways may have protected the area from heavy through traffic, but they have also brought the northern and western suburbs of London, and much of the Midlands, within little more than an hour's drive. The completion of the M40, in particular, has caused house prices to increase dramatically, as commuters seek the good life in the pretty ironstone villages.

Sir John Dent, former chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority and now, in his retirement, chairman of the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), says: "We have to battle all the time to fight off developers. The recession in farming has been a very important factor. A few years ago, land was not so easily available. But nowadays a lot of farmers are only too anxious to get rid of it if they can find a buyer."

Even those who jib at the idea of selling their land are keen to find new uses for it. The halcyon days of the 1970s, when farmers were still being exhorted to maximise food output and were being paid record prices for doing so, are an increasingly distant memory.

Since then, agricultural policy has been directed to reducing food surpluses and, for the past three years, farmers have been offered various forms of incentive to pro-

duce less, and even not to produce anything at all.

However, the so-called set-aside programme, introduced in July 1988, under which farmers were offered annual cash payments to take land out of production, has not proved popular. Under the terms of the scheme, fields in which crops are no longer grown must be left fallow and may not be switched to other agricultural uses, such as grazing.

Not many land designated as set-aside are used for housing or other building. There is, however, one important let-out, namely that such land may be used for sporting developments, for example, riding schools, playing fields and golf courses. The reasoning behind this is that, once under bricks and mortar, land must be regarded as permanently lost to agriculture, whereas, should we at some future date be faced with a food crisis, golf courses and the rest could be dug up, as they were during the second world war, and planted once more with crops.

The result has been a flood of applications from farmers all over the country, hoping that golf will provide the answer to all their financial worries. Many of these ambitions are no more than hopeless pipe dreams, because the land is visually unattractive, too remote, or without adequate access. Many farmers have no concept of the cost of the necessary earth moving and landscaping, and even less idea of how to finance the project.

Moreover, the decline in

Farmers planning to turn unused land over to leisure face fierce opposition. John Young reports



Park golf club, as it was christened, was generally welcomed as a sensible and well planned development, with first-class facilities. Some voices were raised a few years later when a 50-bedroom hotel was added, but they were countered by others who argued that it provided jobs for local people.

But when Mr Green went on to submit proposals for two more golf courses and a new hotel, unease turned to outright protest. Although Mr Green still had his supporters, others pointed out that the three courses would form an uninterrupted 180-degree arc around the village, and would alter its whole character. The district council agreed with the objectors and turned down the application. Mr Green appealed, a public enquiry lasting nearly two weeks was held last summer, and the environment secretary subsequently accepted the inspector's view that the scheme should be rejected.

In his report the inspector said that he did not regard golf courses as inherently harmful to the landscape. In many areas they were an acceptable element in the modern rural scene. They could also bring benefits to wildlife and conservation in the form of new trees and small lakes. But he concluded that the disadvantages outweighed the benefits, and that the radical changes to the appearance of the land "would introduce a discordant feature into what is currently a visually harmonious scene".

Last January Mr Green tried

again with a new application, this time for a single 18-hole golf course on a different part of his land, about three-quarters of a mile from the existing course and separated from it by a busy road. A second course was needed, he said, because at peak times the present course was overcrowded and, since priority was given to hotel guests when booking tee times, ordinary club members were complaining that they could not get a game. There would be no new hotel; only a small building with locker rooms and showers. A decision has yet to be made on this proposal, and its future was recently thrown into doubt when the hotel closed. Since then a number of other developments, particularly those with large hotels and extensive additional leisure facilities, have gone into liquidation.

Bill Craven, Daventry council's principal planning officer, makes it clear that, in principle, the council is opposed to further golf course developments. "In some cases we would encourage them, for instance in the urban fringe, but not in areas of high landscape value."

But how is high landscape value defined? Much of the countryside around Daventry is undeniably attractive; one of the highest areas of the East Midlands, it commands fine views. The famous pre-war radio station, recently closed, was built outside the town to ensure clear reception and transmission, and near Helidon there is a telecommunications tower.

But it is also possible to argue, Mr Craven concedes, that golf courses provide a sort of green belt, a barrier against urban encroachment. A planning policy guidance note, issued by the environment department last September, states that golf courses can open up the countryside for recreation, but can also have a significant impact. They should be located and designed to

ensure harmony with the surrounding countryside, and to conserve the natural environment, it says. Any significant associated developments, such as hotels, should be considered on their own merits.

But the district council is unable to prepare its own guidelines until its local plan has been approved by the government. Mr Craven hopes that the plan will go to a public enquiry next year, but it will not be officially sanctioned before the end of 1993.

In the meantime, landowners can press ahead with applications to build more courses. The council does its best to discourage them in what it considers to be unsuitable areas, but often the applicants still go ahead, necessitating expensive and time-consuming appeals and enquiries.

A new factor is the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (Adas), formerly the technical branch of the agriculture ministry, established to provide free advice to farmers on matters such as pest control, soil fertility and the welfare of livestock. Since April 1 this year, it has been an independent agency, which, for a fee, is happy to suggest new uses for set-aside land and to help with planning applications.

Meanwhile, at remote Helidon, with its ironstone conages, stone walls, narrow lanes, no main roads, and wonderful views across the Vale of Shuckburgh, Stuart Nicoll, the owner of the Helidon Lakes complex, is pressing ahead with an application for a nine-hole extension. Critics say the present golf course was badly designed on terrain that was too steep, and that the hotel and clubhouse, built of brick with a slate roof, are out of keeping with the local vernacular architecture and uncomfortably visible from some distance away.

Mr Nicoll says that people are frightened of change. "They don't want any kind of development at all," he adds.

"We have been open for 18 months, and I think in that time a lot of fears have disappeared. There were worries about traffic, but golfers don't arrive all at once; they arrive just before their starting time. A lot of people who live in the countryside and are not golfers don't realise that. They have visions of big spectator events such as football matches or race meetings, with long queues of cars. But an ordinary golf course isn't like that. We need the extra holes to avoid congestion on the first tee."

"We have planted 27,000 new trees and built 14 lakes, and we have managed to avoid chopping down any mature trees at all. The Nature Conservancy Council wrote to us to say that we had actually enhanced the local wildlife."

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 7



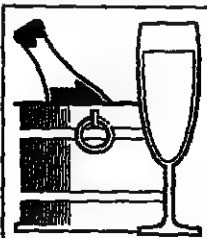
Bear's paw and bird's nest soup made with sea-swallow saliva: these 'small tastes of heaven' await Chris Patten in Hong Kong

OUT OF TOWN, PAGE 9



The stately homes of England/How beautiful they stand/Fighting Euro Disney/To get the upper hand - our noble owners retaliate

PASSPORT TO FRANCE, PAGE 15



Your chance to fizz away for a bubbly weekend in Reims as guests of Veuve Clicquot in today's Times competition



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## FILM

**BATMAN RETURNS** (12) Quirky but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. With Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332)



Michelle Pfeiffer: purr-fect star of *Batman Returns*

**THE BEST INTENTIONS** (12) Ingmar Bergman's fascinating tale of his parents' turbulent courtship and marriage. Dull direction by Bille August; excellent performances (Femke Janssen, Samuel Frøen). Gaiety (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691)

**BIG WEDNESDAY** (PG) Unwashed redneck of John Mills's portentous 1978 hymn to surfers. Jan-Michael Vincent, William Katt, Gary Busey. Prince Charles (071-437 8181)

**THE BUTCHER'S WIFE** (12) Arch whimsy about a New York butcher's cleavage wife (Dani Moore), partly salvaged by bright lines and a genial cast. Jeff Daniels, Mary Steenburgen. Director, Terry Hughes. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 0148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

**CASABLANCA** (U) The 50th anniversary release of the cult favourite, brilliantly written, awash with exotic atmosphere. Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains; director, Michael Curtiz. Plaza (071-497 9999)

**HOWARDS END** (PG) Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865)

**THE LONG DAY CLOSING** (12) Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise. With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful aural collage of 1940s Britain. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772)

**THE LOVER** (18) Jean-Jacques Annaud's over-careful, faithfully erotic adaptation of Marguerite Duras's autobiographical novel about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in Twenties colonial Indo-China. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-636 6279/79 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

**PEPI, LUCCI, BOM...** Outrageous adventures of three Madrid women. Amusing if dishevelled jape from Pedro Almodóvar, completed in 1980. Carmen Maurea. Metro (071-437 0757)

**THE PLAYBOYS** (12) Love and jealousy in an Irish village in 1957. Strong performances (Albert Finney, Robin Wright, Aidan Quinn), but too much blarney. Director, Gillies MacKinnon. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096)

**THE PLAYER** (15) Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman, transposed to a ghetto in 1942. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (071-794 0022). Tues-Sun, 7.30pm, mats Sun, 4pm. Final week.

**FROM A JACK TO A KING** Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sexies songs. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Previews from Thurs, 8.15pm; opens July 20, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm

**GRAND HOTEL** New York hit musical based on the 1930s film and Vidal's novel. Glitter and glamour in a doomed world. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm

**GUYS AND DOLLS** The Young Vic's Youth Theatre present the well-known musical. The two co-directors won praise for the recent in *The Nightingale* and *The Snow Queen*. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Previews from Mon, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III** Nigel Havard's very fine as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's intriguing but slightly puzzling play. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, mats today, Tues, 2.15pm

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAMS** Ian Talbot's jolly production, full of rough and tumble and evergreen comedy. Dirsdale Landon plays Bottom. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Tonight, Mon-Wed, 8pm, mats today, Wed, 2.30pm

**PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!** Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his son after ego. Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm. Final week

**SCHIPPEL, THE PLUMMER** C.P. Taylor's warm-hearted version of Sternheim's satire on snobbery among music lovers. Merry performances. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

**SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION** Stockard Channing recreates her role as the rich New Yorker transfixed by a black cab driver in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm

**A SLIP OF THE TONGUE** A wolfish John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seems to equate East-European decadence with getting lost in bed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 6pm and 9pm, Sat, 4.30pm and 8.30pm

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** Nuns, Nazis, squeaky-clean tots and drops of golden sun: a sweet holiday from the real world. With Liz Robertson and Christopher Cazenove. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tues, Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm

**STRAIGHT AND NARROW** Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dugdale and Carmel McSharry in likeable comedy about a doting mother's worries, notably her gay son. Aldwych, Aldwych WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

**A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE** Philip Prowse's stylish RSC production, in London after a triumphant tour. Calaisus associates, with a woman melodrama laced with Wilde's wit. With Carol Royle and, pictured above left, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Andy Chater. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm

**DEATH AND THE MAIDEN** Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Geraldine James, Michael Byrne and Paul Freeman. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 2.15pm

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**FROM A JACK TO A KING** Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sexies songs. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Previews from Thurs, 8.15pm; opens July 20, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm

**GRAND HOTEL** New York hit musical based on the 1930s film and Vidal's novel. Glitter and glamour in a doomed world. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm

**GUYS AND DOLLS** The Young Vic's Youth Theatre present the well-known musical. The two co-directors won praise for the recent in *The Nightingale* and *The Snow Queen*. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Previews from Mon, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III** Nigel Havard's very fine as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's intriguing but slightly puzzling play. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, mats today, Tues, 2.15pm

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAMS** Ian Talbot's jolly production, full of rough and tumble and evergreen comedy. Dirsdale Landon plays Bottom. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Tonight, Mon-Wed, 8pm, mats today, Wed, 2.30pm

**PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!** Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his son after ego. Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm. Final week

**SCHIPPEL, THE PLUMMER** C.P. Taylor's warm-hearted version of Sternheim's satire on snobbery among music lovers. Merry performances. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm



Deadly game: Lisa Pavane and Greg Horsman in the Australian Ballet's *Checkmate*

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# Sex, sand and so what?

Lynne Truss gives the thumbs-down to the early episodes of the BBC's *Eldorado* soap — while fearing she may be hooked

I CONDUCTED a straw poll on Monday night. It was such a rare opportunity that I felt I should not waste it. A group of assorted media folk was celebrating the publication of a friend's book on the very night that BBC1's new soap, *Eldorado*, had finally landed in our living-rooms with a faint *ole*, a wet bikini top, and a little heap of sand.

"Hey guys," I said, "anyone watch *Eldorado* this evening?" and I sat back with an expectant smile, a notebook balanced on my knee. But nobody moved, and it all went quiet. Then, luckily, somebody mentioned *Coronation Street* (some nonsense about a foot being amputated) and everyone got really animated again. So that was it. I mentioned it because my straw poll turned out to be eerily similar to the official ratings figures, i.e.:

*Eldorado*.....1 (me)  
*Coronation Street*.....14.5 million

The funny thing was that I actually felt lonely watching *Eldorado*. You remember those old *Wednesday Play* scripts set in television studios, where the actors had been accidentally locked in after hours and were suffering existential doubt against white walls, because they were sort of "on telly" but quintessentially "not on telly" at the same time? Well, *Eldorado* was a bit like that — a golden dream that was also a nightmare of the mundane, all played out against an unreal background with nobody watching.

Perhaps it was something to do with the absence of bright sunshine: the deeply un-busy quality of the sky was unsettling. Perhaps it was the dreadful, shameful, virtually untransmittable sound quality. Or the woodenness of some of the acting, which was sometimes so awful that you actually wanted to shout "Trees died for this!". The only thought brightening the horizon was that all those newspaper stories about the millions spent on *Eldorado*'s production values had clearly been a cruel tease on the part of the BBC.

Everyone knows that you cannot judge a soap opera on its first few episodes. But on the other hand, the role of judge (with a bit of black cloth on your head) is practically

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the only role open to you. It is great fun; you say, "Nah, yuk, phooey" and spit on the floor. Six months later, contempt can turn into familiarity, but when a soap opera is new you do not know who anybody is, so you cannot have fun (for example) noticing that Sharon has somehow acquired a fantastic tan overnight without ever apparently leaving the doors of the Queen Vic. Instead you sit there, like the two Chicago film critics Siskel and Ebert (whose whammy-ham film review slot is on BBC2 on Monday nights), and give it a satisfying rapid-reaction thumbs-down.

Great blocks, Siskel and Ebert, by the way, with the most decisive digits in the biz. *Alien 3*? Two thumbs down. *Far and Away*? One thumb up, one thumb down. It is a complex ratings system, but it certainly makes a change from all that simplistic my-dad's-bigger-than-your-dad criticism on *The Late Show*. The difference between their role and ours (on this occasion) is that whereas *Alien 3* will not get better, *Eldorado* may already be better, for all we know. So we can award a gigantic hand-of-God thumbs-down, yet still tune in for future episodes with a clear conscience. Changing your mind is a prerogative of following soaps. Sometimes, you watch them just to see how terrible they are.

Anyway, assuming that the sun

does eventually shine on *Eldorado*, and that the characters start to cast shadows, what can we hope for from this set of people, aside from the rather unattractive parrying and ogling that filled their lives in this first week? Well, not much work, that is for sure. The advance publicity suggested that the great British fantasy addressed by this series was the "move to Spain and open a little bar" fantasy — which, as anybody who saw Channel 4's two-part *Coast of Dreams* in February will know, entails working 18 hours a day, with the wife stuck in a windowless kitchen turning out roast-beef-and-Yorkshire in temperatures of 120 degrees.

But in *Eldorado*, everyone seems to be on perpetual holiday. Joy's Bar is of course run by somebody called Joy, but she is not the boil-in-the-kitchen type, and she evidently has time for a massage each morning (two massage scenes in one week, anyway). There is a restaurant run by a big Midlander called Bunny (whose return from England with a puppet-like child wife was the main story-line this week), but the job seems less than strenuous — just offering people free liqueurs and peering across tables at his new bride with a worried, caring expression.

Hmm. Perhaps I am hooked. Already I want to know the answers to all sorts of burning questions. For example, will the youngsters (particularly the foreign ones) learn to open their mouths when speaking, or will the scriptwriters just



In the shade: Snowy (Patch Connolly), Trish (Polly Perkins) and Marcus Tandy (Jesse Birdsall) trying to fulfil the hype for *Eldorado*

concede defeat and provide incoherent noises ("blegh, fro drewy, mwa?") for them to say? Will the ghoulish Trish (tan, mascara, big-time loser in the love department) bust up very soon please with her young, worthless German gigolo Dieter (tan, peas, girly blond hair)? Having broken up and been reconciled — with a heavy bonk — at

least twice in the first week, the pattern of their relationship already looks a little predictable.

And when will Marcus Tandy (smooth, mean, mark-of-the-devil sunglasses) do something despicable? His only crime thus far has been to chuck out his pregnant girlfriend and describe her as a slut — but in a sexist place like the Costa

*Eldorado*, of course, such behaviour is unexceptional.

We were promised sex in *Eldorado*, and it was left for us to imagine what seven o'clock sex might be. Like a gin and tonic without the gin or the tonic, presumably. Having discovered that the other pre-publicity promises were a bit shaky — "sun" refusing to put his hat on; "sand" a bit gritty and grey; "sangria" so far unmentioned — we find that the sex offends doubly by having the erotic charge of your average *Sooty Show* while being at the same time horribly crude. Quite a trick. Man with beer-belly ogles ordinary-looking blonde woman in middle distance and says flatly, "I wouldn't mind giving her one". Trish, the irritating chanteuse, sets up early for a show at Joy's Bar; she trills with unusual happiness. "What got into you?" asks Joy. "Who d'you think?" retorts Trish, with an enormous wink. Yuk, yuk, nay three times yuk.

Recently, on *EastEnders*, Sharon and Grant went upstairs in the Vic after the lunchtime session, and were then interrupted by someone banging at the door. Sharon reappeared, buttoning her skirt, and not wearing tights. That is class for you. If the same scene were in *Eldorado*, Grant would just wave his Union-Jack boxer shorts out of the window and shout, "Do you mind! We're trying to have a bonk up here."

*Eldorado* means "the gilded", you know. As a metaphor it is jolly dangerous. All that glitters is not necessarily the genuine article. These people are supposedly looking for a mythical place of sun, sand, and anything else beginning with "s", where outdoor shots invariably begin with the young tanned body of a non-speaking extra moving awkwardly from left to right. But in its first week *Eldorado* did not glow very much. What it most resembled, in fact, was the uncooked dinner Gwen Lockhead served up to her lazy husband Drew after he had hilariously neglected to put the chicken in the oven. A lump of whitey-pink uncooked poultry, a mound of frozen corn, and a pile of raw potatoes — the sort of thing that makes your tum go giddy just looking at it. Less of the *Eldorado*, then: more Montezuma's revenge.

## World in Action

(Monday, ITV, 8.30pm)  
The journalistic wheeze of joining a New Age travellers' convoy was OK a few weeks ago, when *The Times Saturday Review* did it. But given the number of pieces written since, I cannot but worry that when *World in Action* does a similar job, asking "Are the travellers idealists or work-shy scroungers?", the answer may be that most are undercover journalists, with wigs and rub-off tattoos.

● *Marilyn Monroe: Say Goodbye to the President* (Tuesday, BBC1, 10.20pm)  
The theory goes something like this: 30 years ago, on the after-

noon of Marilyn's ostensibly lonely suicide, Robert Kennedy was hustled out of the back door, pausing only to collect any tell-tale traces of himself (RFK-nongrammed pyjamas, Attorney-General alarm clock and toothbrush); he was then spirited out of Los Angeles by his brother-in-law, Peter Lawford; meanwhile, Marilyn's romantic ties with the Kennedy brothers were air-brushed out of history before she reached the mortuary.

This documentary, first shown in 1985, radiates so much raw flaming scandal — sex, death, Kennedys, organised crime, official cover-up — that it is like a

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solar eclipse you can really only look at it through thick, tinted bottle-glass, for a few seconds at a time.

The main thrust of the film is the involvement of the Mafia. I keep thinking of the old hit-song "Bobby's Girl" ("I wanna be boom-boom Bobby's girl"). It will never seem the same again.

● *A Question of Attribution* (Friday, BBC2, 9.10pm)  
The Alan Bennett season, which starts tomorrow at 8.10pm with *A Day Out*, gets underway at last. For his fans, the wait has been unbearable, and we do wonder why we cannot have more (the

wonderful mid-1980s Kafka film *The Insurance Man* would have been nice). Anyway, here we have James Fox as the late former spy Anthony Blunt (doing an excellent vocal impression of the art critic Brian Sewell) and Prunella Scales as HRH, in Bennett's clever art-history metaphor stuff about fakes and spies.

The only little thing likely to mar the pleasure is one's reluctant familiarity with the oft-repeated trailers. Thus when the Queen refers to her recent "all walks of life luncheon" as "a bit sticky", the nation's viewers will wearily chime in and say it with her.

L.T.

Record review: Rock bands The House of Love, Phish and The Mission; Plácido Domingo and *Tosca*; and jazzman Gerry Mulligan

## Hazy, lazy House of Love

The House of Love find themselves caught in an awkward limbo. With their fashionable cachet fading into the distance, but their commercial profile still some way short of "stardom", they badly need to put out an album which will establish them as something more than second division mainstays.

Their latest (and fourth) album, *Babe Rainbow* (Fontana S12 549-2), is another fine collection of songs, hazily steeped in the spirit of the 1960s.

Guy Chadwick's stinging has something of the lazy fluency of David Gower's batting technique about it; he sounds so casual at times that it seems as if he is not really trying.

His songwriting style is equally unwhipped and elegant, and the album abounds with drifting, dreamy chronicles and gorgeous guitar textures that deftly mix the twangy with the twinkly. What it lacks is any real sense of

urgency or bite, and this may hinder its progress.

For something a good deal less restrained and even more 1960s-retro try *A Picture of Nectar* (Elektra 1559-61214-2), the second album by Phish.

This four-piece group from Vermont is the standard-bearer of a "new" American movement dedicated to reviving and updating the working practices of bands such as The Grateful Dead. Thus the group tours constantly, performing long shows incorporating much off-the-wall improvisation, and has attracted a following of fans so devoted to the cause that they have established a computer network, called Phishnet, to keep in touch with each other.

The album is a suitably bizarre agglomeration of styles: rock, funk, reggae, jazz, country, all woven through with a rather laboured line in comic tomfoolery. Although an intriguing fusion of



Lacking bite: The House of Love — (left to right) Pete Evans, Guy Chadwick, Simon Mawby and Chris Grootenhuizen

sounds, such rampant and eccentric inventiveness gets a little wearing on the ear, and the evidence here suggests that live performance may indeed be their forte.

The Mission's new album,

*Masque* (Vertigo S12 121-2), is a muddled attempt by the reluctant standard-bearers of goth to change direction.

The album is likely to alienate long-term fans and bamboozle anyone else.

The cover looks like a parody of Steven Spielberg's *Gremlins*, singer Wayne Hussey sounds like a cut-price Bono, and the influences veer with little rhyme or reason from indie-dance to pseudo-

celtic and even Arabic folk-roots. A hotch-potch of supposedly modish rock styles, it sounds more tangled than a plate of spaghetti.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Mulligan recycled

Jazz has never been all that good at caring for its heritage. There has been an assumption that any creative musician worth his salt would be too busy inventing dazzling new forms to take on the dusty role of curator.

Attitudes have begun to change, partly no doubt because of the feeling that there may not be many barriers left to be broken.

Gerry Mulligan's *Re-Birth of the Cool* (GRP Records GRP-96792) is an intriguing example of what can be gained from recycling the past — in this case the stylish nonet recordings Mulligan made with Miles Davis in 1949-50.

At first it seems a doomed idea. The original *Birth of the Cool* sessions are so perfectly proportioned that any attempt to tamper with them ought to be like daubing undercoat on a much-loved painting. Mulligan retains the same unorthodox instrumentation — French horn and tuba mingling with the front line of trumpet, trombone, alto and baritone

saxophone — but has made sensitive alterations to the internal structure of the pieces and the order of the solos.

Davis himself had hinted that he was interested in taking part, but died shortly before the recording session. His place is taken by Wallace Roney, who is a much more assured technician than the Miles of 40 years ago. While Roney is sometimes over-decorative, he generally keeps to the spirit of the original.

With Lee Konitz otherwise engaged, the alto chair is taken by arch-bebopper Phil Woods. A curious choice, as his fierce, hyperventilating runs are in disarming contrast to Konitz's studied elegance. Yet on the whole it works.

Mulligan, a peerless baritone player, will perform the arrangements in London next Saturday at the JVC/Capitol "Radio Jazz Parade".

CLIVE DAVIS

## Sinopoli's lingering Tosca

The imprint of the conductor Giuseppe Sinopoli presses deep into Deutsche Grammophon's new *Tosca* (431 775-2, two CDs). Sinopoli knows all about Puccini, as recordings of *Manon Lescaut* and *Butterfly* testify, and he has never been averse to savouring a little *fin de siècle* decadence — witness his performances of Strauss's *Salome* on stage and on disc. *Tosca* in Sinopoli's hands is, at first impression, unbridled melodrama. The escaped pris-

## OPERA

oner Angelotti (the excellent Bryn Terfel) enters literally running scared. Crashing chords announce the arrival of Baron Scarpia. There is an almost sadistic lingering over the torture of Cavaradossi. Yet just when *Tosca* seems set for the title of Puccini's most violent score, Sinopoli draws from the Philharmonia exquisitely limpid playing.

This happens particularly at the start of Act III, from the Prelude through Cavaradossi's sensuous memories of *Tosca*. The tempi here, as in some other parts of the opera, are exceedingly slow. But Sinopoli's invitation to linger is irresistible.

Plácido Domingo's Cavaradossi is at its best in this final act. It is the part he has sung more often than any other on

stage and it is coming up to 20 years since he first recorded it, with Leontyne Price in the title role and Mehta conducting.

Domingo maintains the revolutionary fervour he put into that early Cavaradossi, and subsequent ones, on disc. On DG there are touches of dryness in the voice, notably in Act I, but when he takes *Tosca* into his arms again in Act III no tenors can rival him.

Samuel Ramey has come quite recently to Scarpia, but it is an interpretation full of authority, as he showed at Covent Garden two seasons back. There is a slyken to the tones as he drips the poison of jealousy into *Tosca*'s mind in the church of Sant' Andrea, followed by snarling triumph when he believes he has her within his grasp.

Mirella Freni all too creditably eludes that grasp, just as she misses the vulnerable side of *Tosca*'s nature. Over the years Freni has been one of the supreme interpreters of Puccini's heroines, but this *Tosca* has come too late. The tone is now too full and there are hints of vibrato in the voice. She no longer manages to sound flirtatious when dangling images of a tiny love-nest before Cavaradossi: this *Tosca* would not grace anything less than a chateau.

The disappointing central performance upsets a *Tosca* otherwise admirably cast and recorded. First choice remains the de Sabata version with Callas on EMI, now just a year short of its fortieth birthday.

JOHN HIGGINS

● Domingo sings Cavaradossi in today's live transmission (shared by the BBC and Channel 4) of *Tosca* from Rome, using the buildings and times of day specified by Puccini. Act I is at 11am on BBC2.



GUILTY SECRETS: GERALDINE MCEWAN

"I AM addicted to *Thunderbirds*. I loved watching it when my children were small and am still fascinated by it. There has just been a re-run and I had an excuse to watch it with my four-year-old grandson, who adores it. My favourite characters are Lady Penelope and Brains. *Roseanne* is my passion: it's very funny. I love women who are not scared to go too far, like French and Saunders, whose anarchic humour is executed with subtlety and observation. They are brilliant actresses. I love it when they play those men with great beer guts. They're beautiful women and yet they can make themselves look so awful."

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# Dreaming in the goo

**I**s it no man's land after the Battle of the Somme? Is it Bangladesh after a tidal wave? Could it be — the scurrying, crablike figure with legs where arms should be, and vice versa, would seem to suggest so — a pond prepared for David Attenborough? No, it is Athens as it has been re-imagined by Robert Lepage and his designer, Michael Levine, for the most original *Dream* since Peter Brook's version two decades ago, and the most strange and disturbing since — but there I have no memory to match it.

The front rows of the audience, though thoughtfully provided with plastic wrapping by the management, risk a soaking. The danger facing the cast would seem to be swamp fever, since the centre of the stage is all brackish water and the rim all mud. The lovers slip around it, splattering each other with goo when angry. The fairies slither balefully across it, humanoid tadpoles (or tadpoloid humans?) as unlike the sprites of tradition as could be.

What is the purpose? Well, the quarrels in fairyland have reportedly caused overflowing rivers, doused fields, rotted corn and mud everywhere. But Lepage has less literal matters in mind. Brook's trapezists and acrobats made *The Dream* playful, whimsical, fun. The aim here is to find darkness in the play, and particularly sexual darkness.

**THEATRE**  
**A Midsummer  
Night's Dream**  
Oliver

Hence the pond-life in a fairyland that, governed by Jeffery Kissoon's black-gowned Oberon, might be a murky Hades. A blue-faced fairy, streaked with muck, mimes sex with a Puck that, as played by the contortionist Angela Laurier, has evolved from crab to spider. Timothy Spall's braying Bottom actually achieves climax with Sally Dexter's Titania. We might be watching creatures jointly painted by Bosch, Goya and mad Richard Dadd; but they are not just striking in themselves.

No, they presumably represent the unconscious and specifically the collective unconscious of lovers who, in keeping with the surrealist style, are first seen together in a bed marooned in the water. What follows is a nightmare in which, surrounded by monsters, they run, crawl and splish through the primordial slime, swapping sexual partners. Finally they emerge exhausted but purged, ready to be hosed clean by clear water.

is not one. Those unfamiliar with the play may be distracted by all the wallowing. Some good lines are lost in the physical ado. Comedy is inevitably lacking, and too often consists of the sheer incongruity of, say, Lysander lying down in mud on the line "here is my bed". Again, how can anybody be appalled by Titania's affair with Bottom when viler creatures are all around?

Again, the evening is not conducive to vivid individual performances. Spall's Bottom is a splendidly narcissistic yob, self-pitying and pugnacious except when flaunting his Liberace wig, bare chest, and Californian swagger; Indra Ové's fine Hermia makes us feel the anguish of having a lover forced on her, and Rudi Davies's Helena the pain of being rejected by him; but it is the music, the light, the overall look and feel that matter.

Why not? When weird and wonderful things are done with bedframes, chairs and other simple props; when Puck swings feverishly round and round on a rope above the distraught lovers; when Titania snoozes in her hanging cocoon, or when sinister shadows appear and fragment on the vast black mirror at the back — well, who would not submit? There is no more brilliantly imaginative production in town.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



**Titania (Sally Dexter) and fairies surround Bottom (Timothy Spall)**

## Vintage Burgundy is going for a song

ALL this week Gothic Voices' lunchtime series for the City of London Festival has presented an overview of medieval music, starting at the dawn of the Renaissance and travelling backwards to the earliest known written piece of English polyphonic music, the two-part organum "Alleluia te martyrnum" from Winchester. As usual, the group's intimate style perfectly balanced fragility and confidence.

The first programme began with two brief French chansons, by Sermisy and Crecquillon, published respectively in 1532 and 1544, and showing that a rich tradition had ended. Nothing of the elaborate setting or fixed forms characteristic of earlier composers working in Burgundy is left here; only relatively simple, direct, though still affecting statements. The contrast was pointed by the genuinely Burgundian music that followed.

The first example, Hayne van Gizeghem's "De tous biens plaine" — sung, as first published, without words — and Le Rouge's far earlier "Se je fais duel" made the point in

## CONCERT

**Gothic Voices**  
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their unhurried exploration of the emotions. There was also a single-voice anonymous virelai "On doit bien aymr" delivered by the tenor Andrew Tusa with admirable control, refinement and tonal consistency. Equally delightful were two more Burgundian pieces, by Robert Morton and Antoine Busnois.

After three sweet, dark anonymous Spanish pieces — the one-part "A los banos del amor", sung beautifully by Margaret Philpott — Gothic Voices came back to home territory with the late 15th century English carol "Alone, alone", a lovely song of desolation, and inevitably, though mercifully not too raucously in this performance, the Agincourt Carol.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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# Dancing to the rhythm of devotion

Music embodies a great paradox. Many of its most prominent practitioners were, and are, notoriously hard-nosed and commercially-minded operators. Yet a remarkable proportion of the world's great music has grown out of what might be called other-worldly masters. From Bach and Stockhausen to Bob Marley, John Coltrane and Aretha Franklin, spiritual faith of one kind or another has been a stimulus every bit as important as the more tangible forces such as ambition, artistic innovation and commercial drive.

The touring and festival circuits now bring us a plethora of devotional musical forms, many of them from ancient or even dying traditions of worship. Even so, this month is special: it sees the Womad festival in Reading, the Caribbean Music Village at Waltham Abbey and an extensive festival entitled Spirit of the Earth, to be held in Birmingham and London. No shortage of spiritual options for lost souls there.

Spirit of the Earth defines its aims with an Italian proverb of the early 17th century. "Whom God loves not, that man loves not music." That was obviously coined before God had heard heavy metal. Yet the sentiment rings true. At its best, music is fluid and expressive enough to communicate even the essence of religions whose rituals or verbal rubrics seem forbidding or incomprehensible.

Music can even make palatable beliefs which, if presented to audiences as a printed manifesto, might cause a riot. One of the most popular performers at Womad

**David Toop on three festivals that offer Westerners a chance to hear the spiritual music of other cultures**

festivals over the last seven years has been the Pakistani singer of Sufi mystical songs, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The tenets of his sacred art exclude women to the extent that only men are allowed on the stage during a recital. Given that a Womad audience is liberal and broadly sympathetic to feminist aims, the ecstatic reception with which Khan's intense Muslim devotion is greeted can be puzzling. In this case, however, the songs express religious beliefs in a language which the audience cannot understand. The music is free to act upon its listeners with generalised, emotional force.

The African-American gospel tradition is similarly renowned for singers who can induce feelings of overwhelming intensity in Christians and unbelievers alike. But understanding the message can create some awkward moments for those who are just there for the beauty of the singing.

At Womad's recent Morecambe Bay festival, the old-fashioned gospel shouting of the Five Blind Boys of Alabama was rapturously received. Just in front of the stage, a woman was dancing with a beer can in her hand, her merriment

obviously owing as much to the contents of the can as to the content of the song. When the group's leader, Clarence Fountain, delivered a short sermon which urgently recommended that all the world's alcohol should be poured down the sink, the woman's mood turned. She stormed off through the crowd, her own personal ecstasy shattered by the stern edicts of born-again Christianity.

Belonging to a society of many and sometimes half-hearted faiths, mostly co-existing in relative tolerance and mutual ignorance, can we hope to make sense of the contrasting religions that flash by during a supermarket of a festival such as Spirit of the Earth?

One important function of such festivals is to demonstrate the sheer variety of valid sacred expression throughout the world. The difference between the grave, ethereal Buddhist temple music of China's Wutai Shan mountains and the dynamic African-derived Lucumi rhythms of Cuba could hardly be greater. Yet each is immediately suggestive of profound beliefs and devout worship.

Both music have survived in supposedly secular societies, and through huge social upheavals. Consider how the Afro-Cuban drum rhythms persisted even through the brutal displacement of the slave trade era. There is something miraculous about the fact that we can hear these African musical elements resonating still in music that comes from another continent.

The manner in which great religions absorb or graft indigenous beliefs can show itself in compelling musical structures.



Giving voice to a profound belief: the Senegalese Muslim sect musicians, Beugue Fallou, feature in Spirit of the Earth

There will be several examples of that among the concerts scheduled for Spirit of the Earth: the Syrian Christian singing of Lebanon; Senegalese Muslim sect musicians, Beugue Fallou; and the Sudanese music from Western Java, a blend of Islamic and animist beliefs. Even without any knowledge of their religions' histories and deeper meanings, audiences will find that these performers convey perfectly well the subtlety and mystery of their music.

Naturally, there is an element of

spiritual tourism about this gentle wander through the sacred. Religious music is functional. They praise their own Gods, demand a code of conduct from their worshippers and do not transfer easily to the concert halls of Europe. If we are not prepared to engage with their original purpose, we are in danger of reducing them to decoration and belittling the performers' commitment.

Yet large numbers of Westerners have shown in the last few years a sincere desire to learn from sacred

traditions and their music. Some become entranced — literally, in a few cases — with the music as an end in itself; an alternative to what they see as the increasingly moribund styles of Western rock. Others want to immerse themselves fully into the mysteries of a strange religion. Most, however, stop halfway: the music induces profound feelings, unrelated to the specific religious beliefs of the musicians, yet with a validity of their own. Inspirational music ultimately carries no dogma beyond the poetry of

its lyrics. It is that very open-endedness that has brought it such a wide audience.

● Spirit of the Earth is at the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire (021-236 2342), from today to July 18, and then at the South Bank Centre (071-928 8800) in London until July 25.

● The Womad Festival is at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire (07734 501591), July 17 to 19.

● The Caribbean Music Village is part of the Lee Valley Park Big Weekend, Waltham Abbey, (071-579 1066) tomorrow.

## A devil of a tricky problem



Sitting on top of a sexual volcano? Jimmy Green, Roger Allam and Julia Deardon

Michael Harding's play is set in Dublin during the Pope's visit to Ireland, back in 1979, when any condom that dared to raise its head in the Emerald Isle was dispatched as ruthlessly as St Patrick dealt with snakes. Events in the play's first half seem clear enough but dull; after the interval what happens becomes impenetrable but intriguing.

First things first: a pooka is a supernatural creature, cousin of our English Puck, maybe. Flann O'Brien's novel *At Swim-Two-Birds* is a handy guide to these arcane matters, and the courteous Pooka in his book is described as a member of the devil class. So much for one half of the title. *Una*, to those of us ignorant of the Gaelic tongue, might be supposed to be an indefinite article; but wait, the 30-year-old spinster in Harding's play is named Una. Does some strange alchemy bind her to the mysterious visitor at her brother's house?

### THEATRE

**Una Pooka**  
Tricycle, Kilburn

Next, something of the plot. Aidan (James Nesbitt), school-teacher and scoutmaster, is fruitlessly married to an ex-pupil (Lisa Ann McLaughlin) and going rapidly round the twist, imagining her to be a witch intent on destroying what passes for his manhood. His grim mother and loutish brother, under-developed characters both, arrive to watch the papal procession, accompanied by Una (Julia Deardon) and soon joined by Father Simeon (Roger Allam) who is said to be a distant cousin, if he is a human being at all.

Soon after his arrival the lights change, and he and Una are discussing in some future time the death (murder? suicide?) that we have yet to see. Is the charming Father

Simeon a devil? An angel? The reincarnation of kindly Pope John XXIII? Or a figment of Una's own disordered mind?

The play moves between this strange future and the acrimonious domestic reality that even a papal visit cannot disguise. Clearly Harding is aiming for a state-of-the-nation piece and has chosen a tricky, though actually tricky, structure to support it. But the "who-is-he?" puzzle is increasingly a distraction from the emerging theme of sexual repression, and Deardon's performance is not, until her last aghast moments, quite strong enough to convey this. Allam's bland, diplomatic murmurs are cleverly done, and he makes a most inviting tempter, but the play promises more than it delivers. Mark Lambert and Nicolas Kent set their production on a living room floor bulging up from the surrounding walls as though perched on top of a sexual volcano.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## CHELTEMHAM FESTIVAL: Richard Morrison sees delusions of Alpine grandeur in the Cotswolds

### Swiss role proves too hard for audiences to swallow

Even the healthiest music festival can suddenly be struck down by a killer disease known as theme-itis. Its symptoms are easily spotted. The festival develops an irrational obsession with some cultural byway — the music of Switzerland, let us say. Swiss performers are booked by the dozen. Swiss composers barely known even in Switzerland — such legends as Willy Hess, Kaspar Fritz, Othmar Schoeck — send hot flushes of excitement through the festival directors.

Wealthy Swiss patrons, the likes of the Nestlé Foundation and Pro Helvetia, are persuaded to help foot the bills. Erudite programme notes are compiled. Jaded critics express themselves enchanted by the novelty of this Swiss roll-call. But the dim-witted, narrow-minded members of the public ruin everything. Inexplicably, they remain indifferent to this unique cultural opportunity.

This year the venerable Cheltenham Music Festival has a bad case of theme-itis. And yes, the programme does indeed feature Swiss music, which possibly makes it the

most esoteric suicide note in history. Admittedly, Cheltenham in July — with its extravagantly flowering baskets set against grandiloquent Regency facades — has an air of solidly regimented cleanliness that could be called Swiss. And whoever designed the festival brochure cover (placing Cheltenham's pride and joy, the Pinville Pump Room, against an Alpine backdrop) deserves the Salvador Dali prize for strenuous surreal endeavour.

But unfortunately the music is far from Alpine in stature or (it turned out) appeal. That was a pity, for the performers were generally admirable. The *Cameraata Bern*, directed from the fiddle by Thomas Furi, is a 14-strong string ensemble. It stands to play, as is now fashionable, and encompasses a big repertoire with stylistic assurance, marred only by the odd sour intonation in the violins.

Its two concerts took in everything from the baroque pattern-making of the Geneva-born Kaspar Fritz (sub-Vivaldi, 50 years in arrears) to the quarter-tone quagmire of modern Switzerland's Heinz Holliger. From one cul-de-sac to another, perhaps. Nor did some characteristically overblown Honneger and clever but arid Frank Martin (the neo-classical *Eudes* endear the Swiss cause to an innocent bystander).

There were, however, minor revelations. Schoeck's *Sommer*, receiving its British premiere nearly 50 years after its genesis, should go straight into the repertoire of our own chamber orchestras. A short but intense meditation on a Gottfried Keller poem, it has the melodic sweep of Elgar or George Butterworth but also the busy, opulent texture of

Richard Strauss. And Rudolf Kelterborn's 1974 *Tableaux encastrés*, though couched unquestioningly in that era's musical Eurospeak — the explosive, expressionist flurries of Penderecki and Lutoslawski — did at least offer the listener strong aural signposts as to its purpose.

The Cameraata Bern also delivered two exceptional Haydn performances, even if they failed dismally as token gestures towards the small matter of attracting an audience. Steven Isserlis's mercurial account of the Cello Concerto in C and Furi's own sonorous playing of the Violin Concerto in C momentarily brought festive sparkle to a not very sparkling festival.

Kelterborn, present in Cheltenham, was also represented in a lively morning concert by the Reykjavik Wind Quintet. Whether the transition from his concise and pungent *Seven*

*Bagatelles* of 1957 to the pointillist cries and whispers of his 1975 *Chamber Music for Five Winds* can be described as progress is debatable. But he is clearly an able craftsman who deserves his belated exposure here.

The Icelanders also dutifully delivered the classical pastiches of the present-day Swiss composer, Willy Hess. Perhaps they think that one small nation surrounded by snow ought to support another. I took more pleasure in their witty, virtuosic playing of Jean Francaix's mastery *Wind Quintet No 1*.

Criticising a festival that has 19 premieres and several other "themes" this year is perhaps unfair. Nevertheless, the spectacle of rows of empty seats for main evening concerts at what is undoubtedly one of Britain's "big five" music festivals is dispiriting. It suggests not inadequate marketing, but that the Swiss obsession has carried Cheltenham's management into areas where the public simply does not want to follow. In such circumstances, adventure is pointless — and expensive.

## Rossini by numbers

### OPERA

**La donna del lago**  
La Scala  
Milan

"THE emotions in this opera are not part of human nature — they are like mathematical axioms," Werner Herzog explained to the Press before his debut as director at La Scala, and one struggled in vain to imagine what a purely algebraic production of *La donna del lago* might look like. In prosaic practice, however, Herzog has settled for a densely textured traditional deployment of his performers and the whole tone of the production is dictated by the sets.

Maurizio Balò's Scotland is a Gothic nightmare constructed of towering masses of black rock twisting and twining into shapes that hint at the murky

recesses of the psyche. Rossini's analyst might have been impressed, but aesthetically it could hardly be further from the lyrical idyllic point.

This visual perversity is thrown into stark relief by the refined beauty of the musical performances under Riccardo Muti, whose approach falls firmly on the early side of the classical/romantic divide that *La donna del lago* straddles: textures are translucent, rhythms lightly sprung.

June Anderson and Martine Dupuy give virtuoso performances as Elena and Malcolm, making expressive sense of their florid music but caressing the ear as well. Rockwell Blake as Ubaldo is technically brilliant too, but nobody could claim that most of the sounds he makes are lovely. Chris Merritt attacks Rodrigo's high notes thrillingly but elsewhere can be rough in timbre and tuning.

NIGEL JAMIESON

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

## London Philharmonic special supplement

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times includes a 12-page colour supplement on the London Philharmonic Orchestra season at the Royal Festival Hall. It features a fabulous offer to see the concerts at discounted rates — see all 11 concerts and save 32% on the normal ticket prices.

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KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

## Drop the dead donkey

Worn out and neglected donkeys of southern Europe often end up in Italy where they are turned into salami. I am assured by people who ought to know.

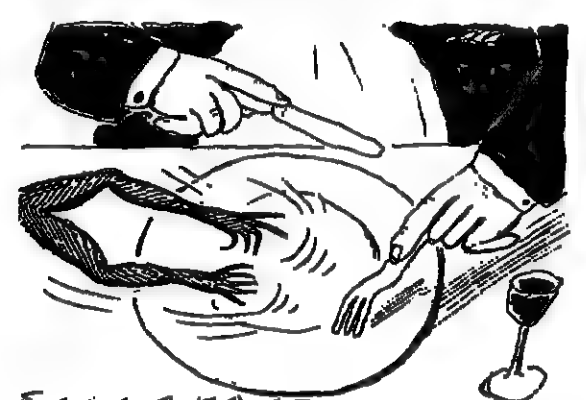
Such salami could, of course, feature in even the most august delicatessens in this country. When it comes to "value added products" — made-up dishes — hygiene regulations are adequate, but labelling is not.

I do not want to eat ill-treated donkeys, and most people would not want to eat donkey at all. But if you scrutinise the other items laid out on the deli counter, there is much that is bad news for animal welfare.

Take ham and pork products, including pies, pâtés and terrines. Virtually all originate from pigs kept in

traditionally British dish. The ingredients are not much in fashion, as beef and salt have dubious health images. Choose organic or conservation grade beef, which is carefully reared. It will cost more — so eat less, which will decrease your intake of salt and saturated fat. Serve it thinly sliced with lots of crusty bread, pickles and a bland potato salad. You can cut and come again for about a week if you keep it in the fridge.

Some butchers sell raw salt beef, which saves the trouble of brining. Home-salted beef, unlike theirs, will turn brown rather than red when cooked, because saltpetre is no longer obtainable for domestic use, but otherwise it is as good or better.



intensive systems. Then there's the egg factor. Unless "egg" in a list of ingredients is clearly stated to be free-range, even the most innocuous looking vegetarian quiche will be made with battery eggs.

If you're looking at more luxurious items, things are no better. Frogs' legs involve hideous cruelty, as the animals are sliced in half alive and can take hours to die, and the trade is ecologically devastating to Bangladesh and other poor regions, because no frogs means plagues of insects and re-courses to fearsome insecticides, which in turn poison people and wildlife.

I have written before about the foulness of foie gras, or any of the products containing it, but did you know that quails' eggs are battery quails' eggs, and that smoked salmon is invariably farmed salmon?

So what do you do if your conscience pricks, but you want the luxury of easy entertaining? If you are prepared to pay extra for something really special, there are sources of humanely reared, ready to eat food obtainable by mail order (see foot of column).

Today's recipe is for a

**Salt pressed silver-side**  
5lb/2.5kg piece silver-side  
For the brine  
1 gal/4.5l water  
1 1/2 lb/750g salt  
8oz/250g light muscovado sugar  
To cook  
2 onions, 2 carrots, 10 pepper  
corns, 1 bayleaf, 2 cloves  
(optional: thyme, parsley,  
juniper berries)

If beef is unsalted, mix brine ingredients, boil and cool. Pour over beef to cover. Leave in a cold place in a covered vessel (not metal, unless enameled) for four days.

Soak beef in cold water for three hours to remove excess salt. Drain. Place in a casserole, where it will fit snugly, add chopped vegetables and seasonings. Just cover with water, bring to boil, cover, simmer three hours on very low heat.

Remove meat, place in a deep dish, press with a weight (about 2lb/1kg; say, a large can of tomatoes on a tea plate). Leave for 24 hours before turning out.

Kind food suppliers: Heat Farm (especially pork) 0769 572077. Pure Meat Co (conservation grade) 0244 681333. Real Meat Co (organic) 0983 40501.

The best ingredients and a quick turnover have brought rewards to a chain of croissant shops.

Mary Wilson reports

On Tuesday, Bastille Day, Dennis Toff will be celebrating the sale of his 40 millionth croissant and the tenth anniversary of his chain of Le Croissant Shops.

Mr Toff and his partner, Chris Pullen, opened their first tiny croissant kiosk on Waterloo station in 1982, after witnessing the lengthy queues outside a similar shop in the centre of Paris.

"I was in Paris in 1981," Mr Toff explains. "I was meant to be meeting somebody in connection with some other business, but the meeting fizzled out. I rarely have the time to do any shopping, so I decided to go and buy some tics."

Down a small alley near the Galleries Lafayette I saw a kiosk selling croissants. I was taken by the wonderful smell and the number of people buying them. I watched for ages, and worked out that the turnover must be very good. And I sampled the product, of course.

"I decided to find out how it was done and discovered their success was down to a freshly baked product which achieved high volume of turnover in a very small space."

"I had no experience in this sort of thing, but I had a friend, Chris Pullen, who owned three cafés, and he agreed it sounded a good idea. [Mr Pullen is now the operations director.] My primary premise, which still holds, was that the product must be freshly baked and something you can eat in your hand."

"We decided railway stations would be the best location. We could open for long hours and get a huge turnover of people. I managed, with difficulty, to get a concession from Travellers Fare on one little kiosk, which had been a mini-market."

"I designed the new shop myself, and, as soon as we opened, it was a runaway success. Our next shop, at Luton, was quite the reverse. It was a disaster. It was in quite the wrong position and we closed it within six months."

That has been his only real error. There are now 21 shops — 13 of them are croissant shops, six are Jardin de Paris selling French bread sandwiches and a few croissants, one is Pizza Now, and one a Cafépresso. This last, Mr Toff's newest variation on the theme, concentrates on the coffee and sells just six varieties of croissant. The reason is that it fits into an even tinier space — the first one on Waterloo is just 65 sq ft.

Jardin de Paris and Pizza Now were started because the company always tenders if any shop space comes up near their existing premises, in order to stop the competition, and it does not want to have two croissant shops side by side.

One thing Mr Toff cares about passionately is using the best ingredients for every one of his products, including his coffee.

All the products, except the cream



Quality control: Dennis Toff, founder of Le Croissant Shop, insists that only French bakers can produce the perfect croissant every time

cheese and ham filling, come from France. "I wanted absolutely the best ingredients and although I looked at a couple of very good bakers here, they could not come near the same quality or price. The French have such a civilised attitude towards food. I couldn't find people in England who care as much about creating the perfect croissant every time."

"I have six different manufacturers in France and we bring across the prepared frozen croissants and bread in raw dough state every week. They are then cooked in the shops."

"I have my smoked salmon, which goes into the sandwiches, specially smoked, and our producers buy the butter in the summer from Normandy and Brittany, and in winter from Périgord, because the taste alters depending on the climate."

Each unbaked roll of dough has to be exactly 23 cm long and 5 mm wide. All his trays and equipment are made in France and he makes his own shelves, preparation areas and odd-shaped sinks, so every spare millimetre is used.

His high standards do not preclude the use of vegetable margarine, because Mr Toff feels there is quite a growing consciousness of the use of animal products. He uses Flora in all the French bread sandwiches.

Le Croissant Shops also sell excellent espresso and cappuccino coffee. This is another of Mr Toff's consuming passions. "I would never buy instant coffee. Our beans are mixed and roasted for us to a particular flavour, and I have just found a new coffee machine which makes the coffee in 12 seconds. The old machines took 18 seconds."

When he decided to start selling American cookies, he went to great lengths to make sure they were exactly right. "I took a long time finding out from many different producers how these could be made."

"I went to a US exhibition when I was researching how to make them, and found one company producing them totally from artificial products. They actually tasted quite good. But I discovered that we could make them without any additives, colouring or

preservatives. They are all pure ingredients and the chocolate has no sugar in it, it is 65 per cent cocoa fat."

There are 14 varieties of croissant and 16 of sandwich, and what sells best is monitored regularly. On the whole, slightly more sweet than savoury items are sold, with chocolate, followed by *paté au raisin* varieties, the constant best sellers for more than ten years. Cheese comes third.

The only variety taken off the menu was a spinach croissant, introduced simply through a desire to try something different. It was not a success and was replaced by *ratatouille*, which did not sell at all until its name was changed to vegetable savoury, apparently because most people did not know what *ratatouille* was. Mr Toff is planning to reintroduce the spinach croissant, however.

One curiosity is that at London Bridge and beside Holborn Tube his clientele has a marked taste for the savoury products, while at Liverpool Street a sweeter tooth is prevalent.

Mr Toff is now 65 and amused that he now qualifies for free travel on public transport. But his enthusiasm is undimmed. He has lived most of his life in Edgware, north London, has kept a boat in the south of France for a number of years and in 1988 bought a house in Venos, near Nice, where he is constructing a sundial. "Did you know that Victorians used sundials to correct their timepieces?" he says.

On Tuesday, every one of his shops will be decked out with the tricolor, and he will be giving away a free croissant and free badge. Badges are all the rage in France, Mr Toff explains.

His largest shop (900 sq ft) is in Oxford Street, and he is hoping to get planning permission to make part of it his first sit-down area. When I left him he was deliberating over whether he should serve the coffee in the plastic cups they are usually sold in for take-away, or to go for proper china. Much more expensive, he agrees, but the coffee would taste so much better.

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## Good year for schist debris

Robin Young appeals for more helpful, less esoteric wine lists

I have just spent a day beating through restaurant wine lists, judging which should receive awards as the wine lists of the year in the next edition of *Egon Ronay's Cellar Guide To Hotels and Restaurants*. It made a fascinating study, and not merely to see how many restaurateurs believe that Taitinger is spelt without the first "t" and that Gewürztraminer comes with an extra "t" between the "r" and "a".

The diversity of reading material offered for pre-prandial perusal is astonishing, even when correctly spelt. One could work up a healthy appetite, for instance, just from the effort of turning the pages of the imposing list from the Champany Inn in Linlithgow, Lothian, a steak house which can offer seven vintages of expensive Spanish Vega Sicilia, yet find room for only three beaujolais. Does anybody really read the geology lecture notes with which Champany introduces its wines, or want to know that the wine they are thinking of ordering came from "slopes covered with limestone schist debris"?

In similarly didactic fashion, Netherfield Place, at Battle in Sussex, notes the dates on which picking started for its various vintages of clarets.

More entertaining by far were the quotable quotes used to embroider the 600-strong and fairly priced list from Auchterarder House, Perthshire, with sources ranging

from H. Warner Allen and Sir Walter Scott to Dick Clement and Ian la Frenais, the script-writers of *Porridge*.

Scots dining at Inverly House, Banffshire, in the Grampian region, will not lack for conversational gambits either. The curiosity notes larded into the wine list there include the world record flight achieved by a champagne cork, and the heart-stopping accident which befell one of the world's costliest bottles.

However, when it comes to notes that will actually help customers choose wine to accompany their meal, restaurateurs become noticeably more reticent. That is fair enough in places like Chewton Glen at New Milton in Hampshire, the leading country house hotel, health and conference centre, which has the services of Britain's champion sommelier, Gerard Basset, on hand to guide guests through a list so eclectic that it even has sections for Luxembourg and Moldova. However, most restaurants in Britain still do not have a wine waiter worthy of the name, and too many wine lists offer no help either.

L'Escargot in Soho, in London's West End, used to run an excellent short wine list, compiled by Jancis Robinson, which sorted wines by grape variety and style. Now Charles Trevor-Roper at Brookdale House, North Huis, in Devon, is virtually alone in offering a list helpfully pre-arranged into styles — dry, medium and sweet whites, light, medium and full reds.



Sensible idea: Antony Worrall-Thompson's wine list classifies its offerings by price

The Crown at Southwold in Suffolk continues its excellent policy of offering a menu of wines by the glass selected specially to accompany each of the dishes on the three-course menu of food, but the initiative has not been as widely copied as it deserves to be.

On my scorecard, restaurateurs lost points for listing alternative vintages next to their wines (eg, 1990/1991) as though it were a matter of indifference. But they would have lost even more if I had been ordering from a list showing one definite vintage and had then been brought a bottle of another, something that still happens far too frequently.

France's 1991 white wines are much more acidic than the 1990s were, so vintage changes that are affecting the wine lists just now could be particularly significant. I was

interested, however, in the initiative taken by the Old Bridge Hotel in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, where the printed list attempts to predict to the month when the vintage of each wine will be changed, which at least gives customers fair warning.

Personal taste, quite properly, dictates the contents of many lists. Nobody is likely to equal the all-embracing compass of Barry Phillips's star-studded list at the White Horse, Chiltern, beneath the Sussex downs, because Mr Phillips is a wine freak of the premier cru. Equally, Robin Jones at Croque-en-Bouche in Malvern, Hereford & Worcester, lists no fewer than 60 examples of Côte-Rôtie, which happens to be his favourite. Peter Herbert at Gravetye Manor, near East Grinstead, West

Sussex, who chooses his wines by organising blind tastings with his would-be suppliers as panelists, has only just got around to tasting for an Italian page in his otherwise catholic and serious list, because he took against Italian wines years ago when none of his customers would buy them.

Holding vast stocks of wines can be an expensive business, especially in the present climate when fine wines have not been easy to sell at marked-up prices. Paul Henderson at Giddeigh Park in Devon provides an example. His wine list recently contained 413 wines, with a supplement cataloguing another 150 bin ends and oddments. Not having been buying recently, he had reduced the value of his stocks to £106,000.

In the face of such figures it is a little surprising that restaurateurs do not do more to market their wines. Adlards in Norwich has hit on the notion of having "bin beginnings" as well as bin ends, and the Sir Charles Napier at Chinnor, Oxfordshire, features a "claret of the month". But perhaps the most realistic and proselytising approach was that adopted by the Soho restaurant where we did our judging, Antony Worrall-Thompson's deli Ugo.

### Best buys

● Pinot d'Aisne 1990, Domaine Zind Humbrecht, Wine Rack, £7.39

A wine I would like to see on every restaurant wine list, much better than ubiquitous chardonnay at similar price. Firm, full, ripe, round, with a touch of pineapple and honey in the rich finish. Excellent with all sorts of food — full-flavoured fish, sweetbreads, coronation chicken, pork sausages.

● Saumur-Champigny La Grande Vignette 1990, Paul Filiatrem, Yapp Bros of More, £6.50

gross deficiency on too many wine lists is of summer red wine to drink cool at cellar temperature. This young wine with a heady burst of fruit flavours concealing its gentle tannins is just the thing for summer meals.

● Georges Dubouché Flower Label Beaujolais 1991, Safeway £5.29

The 1991 cru beaujolais are God and Dubouché's gift to restaurateurs and wine bar owners. This powerfully flavoured wine tasting of red and black berries is one among many winners.

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Deli Ugo's wine list is unique in two ways. It identifies the supplier for each wine and gives his telephone number. It also groups wines on the list by the factor which determines more choices than any other consideration: price. On the Worrall-Thompson list you see at a glance what you can have for £12.50, £15, £17.50 and so on. Frankly it makes more sense than many other wine lists I saw.



# Impressions of a French picnic

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, presents ideas and recipes for an elegant *déjeuner sur l'herbe* — in an English garden setting



THE French Impressionists have a lot to answer for. At the first glimpse of summer we dream of the dappled delights of a woodland walk and a charming *déjeuner sur l'herbe*. Pretty woodlands, however, are not always easily accessible. The alternative is to spread a pretty cloth on a table in the garden. With Bastille Day (July 14) just a few days away, that is all the encouragement I need to produce a taste of France. The French writer Patrice Dard inspired my recipe for chilled snails: his suggestion was to pipe a mousse into the shell, but I wonder, since it is not cooked, how do you extract the mousse from the shell? Stuff a tomato cup instead — or a blanched mushroom cap, courgette, butternut, or cucumber tub.

It is important to have a well-coloured jelly to go with the beef recipe, pink so that, if the beef is rare, the jelly will complement it. A large bowl of freshly cooked new potatoes, dressed with walnut oil or extra virgin olive oil and some snipped-up chives and chive flowers, is a good accompaniment.

The pea and bean salad is substantial and full of flavour; serve it with a salad of brown rice or mixed grains with chopped mint and other herbs, and it will please vegetarians. To follow, try peaches and nectarines.

On occasions like this, I prefer cool, fruity red wines to white (unless there is champagne).

But first, a pale, leafy green cocktail to get you into the mood:

**Herb garden punch**  
(makes about 1½/250ml)  
2 leafy stems each of mint, French tarragon and basil  
1pt/570ml water  
10oz/280g sugar  
2 measures white rum  
1 measure orange liqueur  
Juice of 1 lemon  
Juice of 1 lime  
chilled sparkling mineral water

Bring the herbs and water to the boil in a saucepan and simmer for three minutes. Strain the liquid into a large jug and stir in the sugar. Cool and chill. Pour the spirits, liqueurs and fruit juices into

a large glass jug. Stir in the herb syrup, add mineral water to taste.

**Snails with chilled garlic mousse**  
(serves 8)  
48 cherry tomatoes or 24 larger ones  
4 dozen tinned small or medium snails  
6 cloves fresh garlic, peeled and crushed  
6 spring onions, bulbs only and finely chopped  
bunch of chervil, finely chopped  
1tbsp tarragon mustard  
sea salt  
freshly ground black pepper  
½pt/280ml whipping cream, whipped.

Skin the larger tomatoes, cut them in half and scoop out the seeds; cherry tomatoes just need a cap cut off and seeds removed (rub the seeds and pulp through a sieve and use the liquid as a base for a vinaigrette to mix with a nut oil or extra virgin olive oil). Rinse and drain the snails and put one into each tomato cup. Mix the garlic, onions, chervil, mustard and seasoning and fold into the whipped cream. Pipe or spoon over snails, and refrigerate until needed.

**Rosy jellied beef**  
(serves 8)  
2lb/900g piece of skirt steak  
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
6 sheets of gelatine  
Marinade  
1 box provençal dry rose wine  
2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced  
1 celery stalk, trimmed and thinly sliced  
1 onion, peeled, quartered and thinly sliced  
4 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced  
3oz/85ml ruby port or red vermouth  
1 bay leaf  
1 sprig of lemon thyme  
sprig or two of parsley  
½tsp crushed black peppercorns

Trim the beef of fat and sinews, place it in a bowl and add the marinade ingredients. Cover and marinate overnight. Next morning, remove the meat from the marinade, dry it and fry it in the olive oil to brown it lightly. Pour on the lowest possible heat until done to your liking. I find that skirt is best served either rather rare, in which case 15 minutes will probably be sufficient, or well cooked very slowly (about 1½-2 hours). Remove the meat from the

pot, and let it rest for 15-20 minutes before slicing it. Add the meat juices to the pan juices. Then slice the meat and lay it in overlapping slices in a serving dish. Scoop out some of the carrots and celery and arrange these with the meat. Have the gelatine soaking in a little cold water, and then strain the cooking juices through a very fine sieve or muslin to obtain as clear a juice as possible, and mix in the gelatine until dissolved. Pour over the beef. Cool and then chill, and serve when just lightly jellied.

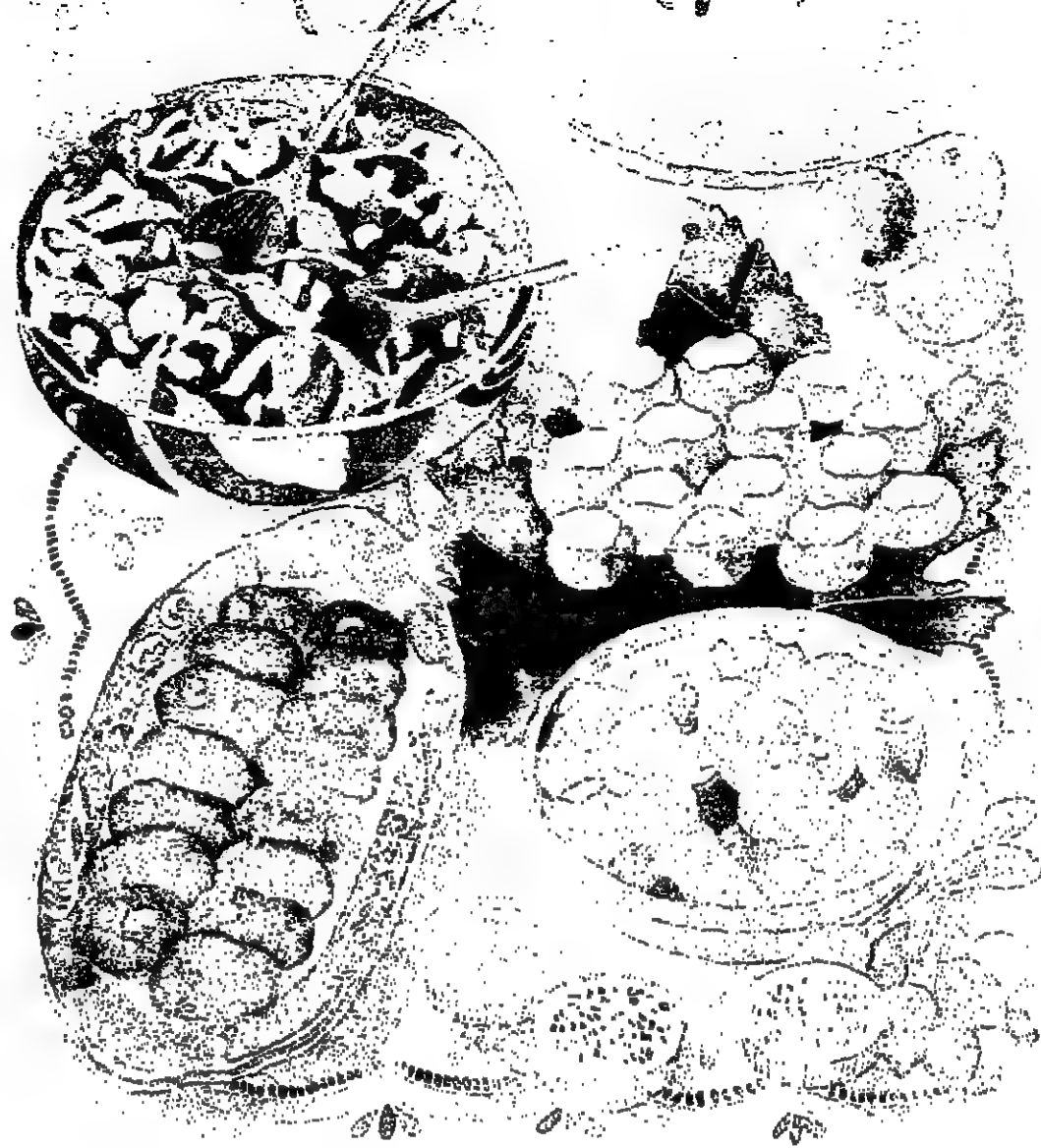
**Salad of peas and beans**  
(serves 8)  
Use some or all of the following, about 2lb/900g prepared weight in all:  
Fresh French beans, runner beans, broad beans, garden peas, mangetouts, sugar snap peas  
Dried: green lentils, chick peas, fava beans, soybeans, haricot or cannellini beans  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed  
sea salt  
freshly ground black pepper  
juice of half a lemon  
½pt/70ml walnut oil

Cook the fresh vegetables as briefly as possible, then drain. The dried beans can be cooked the day before. Mix the garlic, seasoning, juice and oil in a large salad bowl. Stir in the freshly cooked green vegetables and the drained, cooked pulses.

YOU should make the blancmange for the following dish at least four hours in advance.

**Fromage blancmange with peaches or nectarines**  
(serves 6-8)  
5 leaves or 5up of gelatine  
10oz/280g fromage blanc  
¼pt/140ml milk  
5oz/140g caster sugar  
½pt/280ml whipping cream  
6 peaches or nectarines  
78oz/200ml white dessert wine, red wine or apple juice  
2-3oz/60-85g sugar  
grated zest of 2 oranges  
juice of two oranges  
2-3 cloves  
small stick of cinnamon  
1oz/30g toasted flaked almonds

Soften the gelatine in a little water. Beat the fromage blanc in a bowl until smooth. Bring the milk and



sugar to the boil in a saucepan. Stir in softened gelatine until it too has dissolved. Remove from heat. Pour mixture into the fromage blanc and stir until blended. Allow to cool completely. Whip the cream and fold into the mixture. Pour the mixture into a wet charlotte or jelly mould. Smooth the surface and refrigerate for about four hours until set. An hour before serving, put the wine, sugar, juice and spice in a saucepan, heat until the sugar has dissolved, then boil until the

mix begins to thicken. Remove from heat. As it cools, peel and slice the fruit; put in a bowl and pour on the cool syrup. Let this macerate for half an hour or so. Turn out the blancmange, spoon the fruit around it, and decorate with toasted almonds.

**Strawberries with cinnamon, black pepper and beaumont's syrup**  
(serves 8)  
1x3in/7.5cm cinnamon stick  
12 roughly crushed black peppercorns  
6oz/170g granulated sugar  
1tbsp beaumont's  
2lb/900g ripe strawberries

## FRANCE GREAT CLASSICS OEufs EN MEURETTE

COOKING *en meurette* is a specialty of Burgundy and the regions to the east. Food cooked in this way is served with a sauce made from the red wine in which it was first poached. Eels, river fish, chicken and veal are cooked like this.

One of the best known dishes uses eggs, which are poached in red wine, drained, and put to one side while the wine is reduced and added to mushrooms, bacon and small onions, which have been cooked separately.

This makes a fine lunch or supper dish for one or two, but less easy to cook for more than four, because of the difficulty of controlling a number of poaching eggs.

The most sumptuous version of *oeufs en meurette* I have tasted is served at La Côte St Jacques in Joigny, where, as well as the usual accompaniments, Michel Lorain cooks small cubes of calves' liver, and wild mushrooms.

As the red wine is not only the cooking medium but becomes, on reduction, the sauce, it is advisable to use a drinkable wine. You can use pickling onions, or spring onions with good-sized bulbs.

**Oeufs en meurette**  
(serves 2)  
30z/85g streaky bacon  
8 small onions, peeled  
10 button mushrooms  
1oz/30g butter  
1 hot good red wine  
2-4 very fresh free-range eggs  
seasoning

Discard rind and cut bacon into small pieces. Fry gently in a small pan and when the fat runs, add the onions. Cook on low heat until onions are almost tender. Wipe and slice or quarter mushrooms. Add butter to the pan, raising the heat slightly, and fry mushrooms. Move pan to the back of the stove while you poach the eggs. Pour wine into a second shallow pan.

Bring to the boil, crack eggs and slide them into the wine from opposite sides of the pan. Cook until the white has just set, enclosing the yolk. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Boil the wine fiercely to reduce it by half, and pour it into the pan with the onions, bacon and mushrooms. Cook for a few minutes more. Tidy up the eggs and place on toast or fried bread in a heated soup plate. Spoon the hot sauce over.

F.B.

## Eternal youth in a soup bowl

Hong Kong's foremost foodie on bird's nest to bear's paws

Occidentals know little about the 19th-century Emperor, Minh Mang of Vietnam, but two facts float to the surface like puffed rice in a wok of smoking oil. He had a rapacious appetite for bird's nest soup and an equal one for his harem. When he died, aged only 20, he had fathered more than 150 princes and princesses.

This lends force to rumours of the aphrodisiac qualities of bird's nests which have spread throughout Southeast Asia like Chinese whispers. "Perhaps so, but I prefer the theory that it keeps you young," Willie Mark, president of the Federation of Hong Kong Restaurant Owners, says.

Five years remain before Hong Kong is handed over to China. Whatever their future, its six million inhabitants remain addicted to their favourite occupations: eating and making money. Mr Mark happily combines both. He is a food importer-exporter, restaurant consultant and author of two daily eating-out columns in Cantonese newspapers. It is his business to tuck in twice a day, and he would not change his job for all the tea in China, his words.

There is no lengthy consultation of the menu as he settles at the table of a Kowloon-side restaurant. With jade mats and ivory chopsticks in position, he opts for his standard lunch-time opening. "Shark's fin soup in supreme stock. The sun-dried fins have to be soaked for several days to soften them, then boiled for as many hours."

Next, abalone casserole, appreciated for its high protein content. Traditionally cooked in a stock of pigskin and chicken legs, it is easier cooked in chicken and spare-rib stock in a ceramic pot.

To follow, steamed garoupa fish. Then steamed rice. Finally, bird's nest soup in almond cream. With a bottle of white burgundy, the bill for two will be about HK\$3,000 (£202).



Gourmet treat: Willie Mark (left) ponders the dubious delights of sea-swallow saliva.

Mr Mark is a trencherman who treats lunch as an appetizer to the evening meal. He calls Hong Kong the untested capital of South-east Asian gastronomy. However, his descriptions are sometimes a trifle off-putting. Bird's nest, for example. "The basic ingredient is the saliva of the sea swallow with which the bird fashions its nest. Red-tinted nests, containing blood, are the most desirable and are used to give flavour and texture."

Among the many bowls of noodles in which he has a finger is the annual Hong Kong food festival, when the territory's kitchen brigades — representing Thai, Japanese and Indian cuisines as well as the various regions of China — go into overdrive. There is always something for the most adventurous palate. Anybody for *balut*? They are half-hatched duck eggs, often eaten raw. Deep-fried grasshoppers, at 30p a teaspoon, are a crackly snack to go with a glass of Tsing Tao beer.

Or spiced duck tongues, jellyfish, honeyed eel, 1,000-year-old eggs, chicken feet, snake soup and bear's paw. "The left paw, for preference, because it's the one most frequently licked by the bear, and therefore the more tender," he says. "These days,

bear's paw tends to be ox knuckle in disguise."

Exotic, yes, but not so bizarre as the menu for a Chinese Imperial banquet several centuries ago, which might have included camel hump, panther womb and ape lips. In 1985, Mr Mark researched old Chinese recipes for a series of banquets to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Mandarin Hotel. On the bill of fare were civet, crane, deer, heron and frogs' ovaries.

In Hong Kong today, he detects a new style of cooking, healthier and lighter, bringing in fresh ideas — vegetable oil instead of animal fat to cook with, and comparatively new

imports, such as asparagus. A new generation of chefs is exporting its talents to Canada and the United States, the preferred destinations for those emigrating before 1997.

One of the restaurants at London's Dorchester hotel is The Oriental, run by Hong Kong chef Fook Yuen. When the nearby Langham Hilton opened last year, one of its first guest chefs was Ken Hom, whose recent book, *Fragrant Harbour Taste*, is subtitled "The New Chinese Cooking of Hong Kong".

As the final course arrives, Mr Mark admits he does not like bird's nest soup: "I was sick as a young boy in mainland China and was force-fed it as medicine to give me strength."

Chris Patten, who took over as governor of Hong Kong on Thursday, is an acknowledged aficionado of Chinese food. He might, therefore, enjoy a meal at the Lai Ching Heen in Kowloon's Regent Hotel, where, according to the *Gault Millau* guide, the food is "small tastes of heaven".

Mr Mark, flicking through the pages, has had his lunch-time. Now he is looking forward to an evening of pear with scallops, and bean curd with spicy beef sauce.

ALASDAIR RILEY

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16 July	Thassos	7 Pension	B&B £159	28 July	Cyprus	14 Apt	S/C £429
17 July	Turkey	7 Pension	B&B £234	28 July	Cyprus	7 Hotel	B&B £449
18/20 July	Corfu	7/14 Flight Only	£95	21 July	Costa del Sol	14 Apt	S/C £389
18 July	Austria	11 Pension	B&B £149	14 Aug	Costa del Sol	14 Flight Only	£169
18 July	Majorca	14 Apt (4)	S/C £310	STANSTED			
19 July	Corsica	14 Villa/Pool/Car (4)	£399	15 July	Rhodes	14 Studio	S/C £159
19 July	Bulgaria	7 Hotel	B&B £234	18 July	Jersey	7 Hotel	H/B £259
20 July	Turkey	14 Hotel	B&B £264	21 July	Crete	14 Studio	S/C £219
21 July	Crete	14 Apt	S/C £240	21 July	Lanzarote	7 Apt	S/C £234
21 July	Majorca	7 Hotel	H/B £244	23 July	Majorca	7 Apt (3)	S/C £274
21 July	Ibiza	14 Apt	S/C £244	25 July	Majorca	7 Apt (4)	S/C £264
22 July	Rhodes	14 Flight Only	£109	30 July	Portugal	7 Apt (4)	S/C £234
22 July	Rhodes	14 Hotel	H/B £315	30 July	Portugal	14 Apt (4)	S/C £274
22 July	Ibiza	14 Villa/Pool/Car (4)	£499	BRISTOL			
23 July	Lanzarote	7 Apt (3)	S/C £240	16 July	Malta	7 Apt	S/C £187
24 July	Tunisia	7 Hotel	H/B £185	16 July	Malta	7 Hotel	H/B £213
24 July	Tunisia	14 Hotel	H/B £259	17 July	Tenerife	7/14 Flight Only	£99
25 July	Jersey	7 Hotel	H/B £225	18 July	Majorca	7/14 Flight Only	£39
28 July	Crete	14 Studio	S/C £259	18 July	Algarve	7 Apt	S/C £289
30 July	Majorca	7 Villa/Pool/Car (4)	£399	20 July	Corfu	7 Apt	S/C £219
07 Aug	Portugal	7 Apt (4)	S/C £214	20 July	Corfu	14 Apt	S/C £269
	Malta	14 Hotel	H/B £371	UK BUTLIN'S HOLIDAY CENTRES			
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18 July	Bulgaria	7 Hotel	B&B £234	SOMERWEST WORLD			
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18 July	Bulgaria	14 Hotel	B&B £264	WONDERWEST WORLD			
19 July	Orlando	7 Fly Drive	£309	24 Aug	Ayr	4 Apt (4)	S/C £39
19 July	Orlando	14 Hotel/Car	S/C £439	CRUISES			
20 July	Corfu	14 Apt (4)	S/C £284	18 July	Rhine Cruise	7	From £585
21 July	Crete	14 Studio	S/C £229	25 July	Rhine Cruise	7	From £615
22 July	Skithos	7 Studio	S/C £239				
23 July	Portugal	7 Apt (4)	S/C £240				
23 July	Portugal	14 Apt (4)	S/C £274				
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**Betty Jerman** explores the newly opened children's museum in Halifax, where learning is turned into hands-on fun

ing co-ordination under a giant train, press a heart to see blood circulating, take a deep breath and neck their breathing control against a singing tenor's, feel the robe within the figure of a mother, probe simulated fur and human skin, all designed to help them to learn about themselves.

Eureka! is designed for five to 12-year-olds. Howling the jungle with tree house, a slide into a ball-filled pond and musical flowers, is especially for under-fives, and many exhibits in other parts are at low level and simple to operate.

The outdoor park on the 12-acre site will be landscaped, with trails of dinosaur footprints. The playground, picnic train, touch garden, wildlife garden and wheelchair sports track, all on Eureka's "wish list", await new sponsors to join Markis & Spencer, W. H. Smith, British Telecom, and the Variety Club of Great Britain, which helped to make the indoor enchantment possible.

**Eureka!, Discovery Road, Halfpenny Furze**  
Yorkshire (0422 330066)/recorded  
formation 0422 344444. *Open*  
10am-5pm (Tm Wednesdays)  
September 30. *Enquiries about*  
opening times call that. *Admission*  
£0.50 (3-12), £3.50 over 12. *£10 family*  
£6. *Children under three free.*

**LONDON**

- **Severgnig, the Exhibition of a Lifetime:** Various displays and workshops are open to royal theme for children on Saturdays throughout the summer. Booking necessary. **Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7. Tuesday, July 18 and dates in August. 2pm and 4pm. Further information and booking 071-938 8638.**
- **EastEnders interactive video:** Find out what it is like to be a vision man on the programme. Booking essential.

**MOMI, South Bank, London SE1. Monday, July 13 and 20. Further information from the education department (071-815 1339).**

- **Barnes village fair:** Traditional English fair with a grand parade more than 200 country style, children's events, competitions, home-made food. **Barnes Common, Church Road, Barnes, Tdwy, 11am-5pm.**
- **Beckley show:** Family entertainment with arena events, circus, funfair, craft village plus food. **Danson Park, Danson Road, Bedgeham, Today, tomorrow, 11am-5:30pm.**

**NATIONWIDE**

- **Armageddon goes batty:** The Sussex Zoo's visitors show recovering patients from their hospital and gives advice on housing and helping the nocturnal creatures whose numbers are steadily decreasing. **Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Mill Lane, Arundel, West Sussex. Tomorrow, 10am-4pm. £3.50, child £1.75.**
- **Burlesdon makes hay:** Farm workers in period costume gather in the hay using old horse-drawn equipment and tractor power. New litters of black and pink saddleback pigs to be seen, home-made food. **Marble Hill Farm, Upper Haze, County Park, Burlesdon, Hampshire (0489 787055). Tomorrow, 10am-5:30pm. £2.20, child £1.20. Family ticket two adults and three children £6.40.**
- **Broxbourne Family fun day:** A children's treasure hunt, rides, Punch and Judy, magicians, clowns and a magic show plus bands, slideshows and stalls. **Cedars Park, Borough of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. Tomorrow, 1-5:30pm. Free. Further information 0992 21308.**
- **Beitring balloons:** Annual hot-air balloon festival with races and competitions and, tomorrow, the Kent cycle ride, starting and finishing at the farm, plus all the permanent displays, a children's slide house and an animal village. **Whitbread Hop Farm, Beitring, Kent (0622 872068). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £4.25, child £2.**
- **Corby falcons:** Feather Perfect presents dramatic flying displays, static demonstrations and talks about the birds. **Kirby Hall, four miles northeast of Colly, Northamptonshire. Tomorrow from 2pm to 12 noon, child £1.50. Further information: 0536 203290.**
- **Didoon today beach:** Beach and Judy, sores and rashes on Great Western steam trains. Bags of small presents to all visiting children with beans. **Didoon Railway Centre, Didoon, Oxfordshire (0235 817200). Tomorrow, £4, child £3.50.**
- **Guildford Rotary show:** Full programme includes gymnastic displays, a jousting tournament, American football and children's rides. **Guildford Park, Guildford, Surrey. Tomorrow, 11am-5pm.**
- **Kenton historic vehicle gathering:** Annual display of vintage and historic vehicles, plus a craft fair, children's entertainments and an auto jumble. **Powderham Castle, Kenton, Devon. Tomorrow, 11am-5:30pm.**
- **Liverpool pieces together the past:** Visitors are invited to explore various objects at quiet quarters. **Mereside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool. Tomorrow until September 6th, daily, 10.30am-5.30pm, last admission 4.30pm. £1.50, child 75p, family ticket £4. Further information 051-207 0001.**
- **Stelmersdale countryside day:** Animals, displays, crafts and children's activities with a country theme. **Beacon Country Park, Beacon Lane, Stelmersdale, Lancashire. Tomorrow from 1pm.**
- **Stratford-upon-Avon festival:** The two-week programme begins today. Events suitable for children include: today, **King Edward VI Dreams of Drama** at King Edward VI School, 4pm, £3, child £1.50; tomorrow, today's beans garden party at Alveston Manor, Clifton Bridge from 2-3pm, £2, child £1; folk and fete day at Evington, noon-5:30pm, £3, child free. Further information on all festival events from the Festival Office, Chestnut Walk, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (0789 267949).
- **Upper Slougher fete:** Terry White opens the fete at 3pm. Family attractions include stalls, duck racing and family games, joss and a bar. **Upper Slougher, Gloucestershire. Today, Free. Modest car-parking fee.**
- **Where watersports day:** Take a boat trip, try your hand at canoeing, fishing or dragon-boat racing. **Wren Friary, Friary Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. Tomorrow, 10am-4pm. All events free except boat trips, £1.**

**JUDY FROSHAUC**

[illegible]







## WHERE TO WALK

ONE might as well face the fact that people in search of walking recommendations would not regard me as a prime source: the soles of my holiday shoes are more likely to carry the imprint of brake and accelerator pedals than any significant evidence of walking.

However, in France this is like admitting that you cannot ride a bicycle. The French take walking seriously, and French farmers can teach our own a thing or two about the difference between a path and an obstacle course.

There is a further difficulty about coastal walking, which by definition tends to be lateral. At some point, unless you are prepared to cross roads full of people like me, you have to turn around and come back. Thus it is with some joy that I report the existence of the Ile d'Aix.

This little island off the coast at La Rochelle is often missed out by tourists in favour of the larger Ile d'Oléron, which is a pity. Ile d'Aix is a pleasant half or full day out, and the length of your walk can easily be adjusted to fit the demands of fitness or accompanying children.

There is a further bonus: the island cannot be reached by car, so only the island residents drive, and therefore the walker has a fairly hazard-free time of it.

A regular ferry service runs from La Rochelle (one hour) and Fouras (25 minutes) between April and September and once on the island, which is shaped like the head and neck of a horse, there is the option of walking by



the eastern route, which will take you around the Anse du Saillant and on to the greener pastures of the north, or up the straighter western edge.

Either route offers several interesting battlements overlooking pleasant beaches. The eastern side is the most convenient for a detour to Fort Liédot, a well preserved ruin about half a mile inland from the northerly tip at Pointe

St Eulard, the island's prime viewpoint.

The south of the island offers most potential for those seeking a mix of short walk and other activity. Ile d'Aix village has dinghy sailing and windsurfing on its eastern edge.

● Ferry sailings: details from La Rochelle tourist office (010 33 46 41 14 68). Reservations advisable in high season.

## WHERE TO STAY

IF YOU want a holiday with a mix of everything from a night or two of luxury to a night or two camping, here are some suggestions. The places named have either been used by me, or they come highly recommended.

● **St Jean-de-Luz: Hôtel Grand**, 43 Boulevard Thiers (010 33 59 26 35 36). Five minutes from the old port. Seafront luxury, direct beach access, its own (small) terrace pool and exquisite food. Four-year-olds wandering about the restaurant and picking at food are smilingly indulged, adults are treated properly (and in English) without the service being over-fussy. Some might criticise the emphasis on food presentation, but I wouldn't be among them. Rooms (for two) FF790 (city side), FF980 (sea side). Restaurant FF150 upwards per person.

● **Châtillon: Moulin de Châtillon**, R.D. 733, Châtillon, 17680 Le Gua (010 33 46 22 82 72). A converted tide mill owned by the small Moulin Etape chain, this one is near Royan on the Rochefort road. Rooms FF350-480 per person; room, breakfast and dinner FF560-630. All rooms en-suite.

● **Ile de Ré: Hôtel Le Martray**, 17590 Ars en Ré (010 33 46 29 40 04). No-nonsense but adequate rooms, some with balconies overlooking the beach. Very good main course menus, especially seafood, indifferent desserts. All rooms en-suite. From FF320 per double room.

● **La Rochelle: Hôtel Les Brises**, ave P. Vincent, 17000 (010 33 46 43 89 37). Close to the main port area, fine views over the bay from a splendid



Seafront luxury: the Hôtel Grand in St Jean-de-Luz has exquisite food

terrace. Rooms (all en-suite) FF400-580 per person, no restaurant.

● **Royan: Family Golf Hotel**, 28 bld Frederic-Garnier, 17200 (010 33 46 05 14 66). Low-rise friendly hotel overlooking the main beach and the Gironde estuary. Golf, tennis and horse-riding nearby. FF300-420 a night (for two people). All rooms en-suite.

● **Camping**: We have not camped in France, putting us in a minority, but there are three-star sites all along the coast (the Ile de Ré is especially well served). Best sources of information are the Fédération de Camping et de Caravaning, 78 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris (010 33 1 42 72 84 08). Or Camping Club International de France, 14 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris (010 33 1 42 36 12 40).



Pockers: shop sign in La Rochelle

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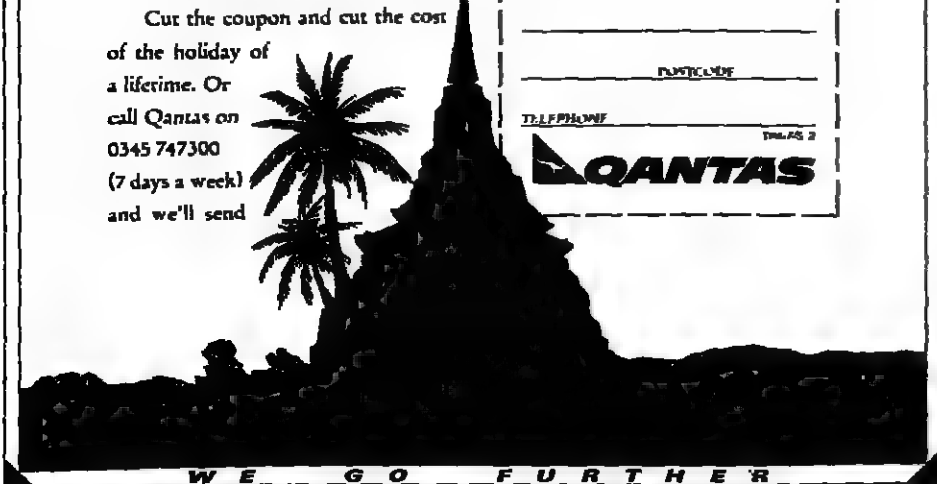
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## GUIDE BOOKS

● I would never willingly be in France without the relevant Michelin green guide—in this case, the Côte Atlantique. Others I return to again and again include:

● **Holiday Which? Guide to France** (Hodder & Stoughton, £10.95). A good taste of every region with sensibly organised sections on changing money, opening times and the like.

● **The Pocket Guide to French Food and Wine** by Tessa Youell and George Kimball (Carbery Press, £5.95). Now in its seventh year, this is a marvellous pocket-sized journey through French menus, from what the words actually mean to where the food originates.

● **Self-Catering France** by John P. Harris and William Hiedley (Collins, £6.99). What to take, where to take it and how to get what you haven't taken, from something for snake bites (les serpents) to a baby-sitter.

● **Aquitaine** by Arthur Eperon (Pan, £6.99). An old favourite (part of a regional series), this is a splendid browse on local history, sites of interest and myriad other features.

● **Michelin red guide**. The bible without the adjectives. Priceless (at £11.95).

# ATLANT

From stylish La Rochelle in the north to Hendaye on the Spanish border, the French west coast has restored Peter Barnard's faith in beach resorts

A slab of bruise-blue sky squats ominously above my head. Out of it, at alarmingly frequent intervals, fingers of lightning, the product of a forecast electric storm for once punching its weight, embellish fading light levels. At my feet, on shifting sand, tiny softback crabs snap and crackle.

Fifty yards in front of me, out to sea, is a small, unmanned lighthouse. Nearer still, two boats—an oyster catcher and a small sloop—lie ungainly on the sand like beached whales.

I have been using the lights of the hotel to ensure that this afternoon sun does not get out of hand. I glance back. The sun is now all gone bar a ribbon of pink. The hotel is perhaps three quarters of a mile away. I say "perhaps" because the hotel's lights have gone out.

Never mind. No more than an inch of water is attacking my shoes and the tide is still going out. I think. A few motorists are still using the road that runs round the Ile de Ré, so I have their lights to guide me back.

None of this is my fault anyway. I blame the second bottle of wine. An after-dinner walk on the beach was all I wanted. Nobody told me that around here, the tide goes out so far that cross-Channel ferries give it a lift back.

That is only one of the surprises of the French Atlantic coast. In the past I have had but two problems with beach resorts: the beaches and the resorts.

For some reason a beach and a resort conjoin in such a way as to produce a nasty feeling in the mind. I have long thought that the sole merit of sitting on a beach facing out to sea was that at least one was not

sitting on a beach facing the hideous wedding-cake architecture flung along most seafronts.

Yet there do exist resorts which service fidgety types like me, and the French Atlantic coast has its fair share. If you want only beaches, tanning, for the purpose of, stick a pin in the map: the coast from southern Brittany to the foot of the Pyrenees is a positive orgy of fine sand.

French resorts have another advantage over most of those in Britain. For all the contrary evidence, the English can provide food in public places that does not inflict cruel and unusual punishment on the digestive system. Until, that is, the food purveyors reach the beach, at which point the chip culture appears to become, so to speak, *de rigueur*. Not so the French, for whom *haute cuisine* among the sand-castles is no more of a challenge than *haute cuisine* out of a picnic basket.

If there is a problem with the Atlantic coast it is the question of where to sample it. I have ducked and dived along all of the coast and, if I had to settle on one place or another, bearing in mind the boredom thresholds of children and the fact that coastal weather can be capricious even in summer, I would give serious consideration to La Rochelle towards the north, and St Jean-de-Luz in the south.

They have in common a certain sophistication, an attitude which seems to speak as much to travellers as to tourists, a differential which I regard as the litmus test of any resort. Each of them gives off a sense that they would exist without tourists. Neither was built last week for the sole purpose of entertaining us.

Oddly, the approach to both augurs badly. French towns,

perhaps even more than our own, have an increasing tendency to litter their outskirts with ever-larger billboards announcing ever-larger out-of-town shopping complexes and light industrial sprawls, but then they have to survive in winter.

Get to the heart of St Jean-de-Luz—the old port area (Vieux Port on the signposts)—and there opens up an attractive and comfortable vista. A fine shelter for yachts, and for the working boats which now catch tunny off the coast and sardine off Portugal and Morocco. The boats are overlooked from an open piazza-style cobbled area of street cafes and shop windows worth a gaze or two.

The rue Garbetta heads back from the waterfront, and whatever else you do, follow it two-thirds of the way until you reach one of the most remarkable churches in France. The exterior of the Eglise St Jean-Baptiste gives no hint of the wonders within—an incredibly ornate altar and an unusual, three-tiered gallery. This was the church, started in the 11th century and enlarged in the 16th, where the arranged marriage between Louis XIV and the Infanta of Spain was blessed.

The gallery in the church used to be reserved for men only, a hint that we are in Basque country. The female exclusion zone was very much a Basque feature, and beneath the tourism veneer the Spanish, and Pyrenean, connection is visible. Red roofs with overhangs to carry snow safely away are everywhere, and Basque influences inform much of the local cooking.

St Jean also has its beaches, few better than the one that fronts the Grand Hotel. The Grand is itself worth looking at (not to say staying in), a splendid building which stands out among the bleak architecture of other seafront hotels.

We took a brief trip south from St Jean to Hendaye, near the Spanish border, which is worth a visit for its long, sandy beaches if not for its disappointing town. The beach area is most spectacularly approached if you follow the "Plage" sign north of the town and ignore "Centre Ville". The beach turning takes you first to a confusing junction with no sign at all (turn left) and the road then rises to give a tremendous coastal view.

We took the port road through Hendaye and crossed the Spanish border, more or less for the sake of doing so, in time for morning coffee at a village in the foothills of the Pyrenees in one of those Spanish hotels where they have to pipe in the daylight.

When we resumed the journey north we called in at Biarritz, a shadow of its former self. Aging ladies with cowhide bags still patrol the front, though no aging Bardot is among these days. But no amount of neglect can alter the town's position, at the heart of a magnificent bay. Nor is there any noticeable falling off in the liveliness of the Place Georges Clemenceau, the irregular oblong at the heart of the town.

North of Biarritz there is an enormous beach: well, several beaches, stretches of sand running for nearly 200 miles, broken only by the resort of Arcachon until they reach the Gironde estuary at Royan.

Along this stretch the French have built a number of resorts,



Baguettes in the basket, bales on the beach: left, the mark

almost all of them marked by the clanging of aluminium rigging in their marinas and oddly constructed villa complexes, which always remind me of the sort of thing the Saudis provide along the Red Sea coast for expatriate westerners.

So these places are hardly French in their physical atmosphere, but that does not mean they should be written off. We enjoyed Capbreton, 19 miles north of Biarritz, which has good beaches and good seafood. Stay on the D79 if you have hit one of those days when the heat is unrelieved by a breeze and you will come to Soustons, which is inland slightly, on the D652. This is a perfect place to cool off, with a large lake surrounded by trees under which one can park, thus

cooling the car as well as the passengers. For bored children the lake offers pedal boats and dinghy sailing. This area has plenty of caravan and camping sites.

No searcher after a shade should miss out Arcachon, large and lively resort which has a splendid promenade shaded by palms. But beware of a area for bathing: the Bde d'Arcachon drains like a lake every low tide, and so much the beach area is glutinous.

In order to hug the coast you can cross the Gironde estuary by car ferry to Royan, which has several good beaches, although the town itself is not to try as it was re-built after two air raids in 1945 (for no purpose anyone can understand), so therefore has that post-

## Try the mild west

## PROPERTY

The new Atlantic line of the TVG high-speed rail service is opening up many unspoiled regions of western France, including the Loire, the Vendée and the Charente. The rail time from Paris to Poitiers is an hour and a half, two and a half hours to Angoulême and three and a half hours to Bordeaux. By 1993 it will go to La Rochelle (three hours).

The Vendée, the southernmost department of the western Loire, is probably the least known coastal area of France. It has more than 100 miles of wide Atlantic-sewed sandy beaches, extending south from Beauvoir-sur-Mer to La Rochelle.

Easily reached by motorway to Nantes, and then on country roads to the coast, it is largely ignored by British holidaymakers and property hunters travelling to the Dordogne and

Charente, and prices are low.

The Vendée has some high-rise concrete along the coastline, with resorts such as Les Sables d'Orléans and La Tranche-sur-Mer aimed at low-budget French tourists, but it has not been overdeveloped. The sea is generally clear and clean, and its seafood is superb.

The winter climate along this part of the French coast is exceptionally mild (mimosas bloom there in February), and is followed by wet springs and long, hot, dry summers.

The typical Vendéenne house is stone-built, with pantile roofs in warm terracotta. There are plenty of such properties to be found a few miles inland, around the old towns of Fontenay-le-Comte, Chantonnay and Mareuil-sur-Lay. A

habitable house, with a basic kitchen and bath, two bedrooms and a small garden, can be found for about £15,000.

A prosperous area for centuries, the Vendée has many substantial houses, often fortified, and a good choice of manor houses and châteaux dating from the 18th century. Large country houses in need of restoration, with some land, cost from £50,000, twice as much if fully modernised. Manor houses for renovation start at £100,000.

Modern houses and flats on the coast cost from £30,000 for a small two-bedroom villa in a holiday complex, set back from the sea.

South of the Vendée, the coastal region of Charente Maritime is the poor man's Côte d'Azur, with its wide sandy beaches, slab-like hotels and concrete apartment blocks.



Good spot: a four-bed

Coastal prices range from about £40,000 for a holiday flat with sea view inland, property prices and within a few miles of beach a two-bedroom house before restoration can be bought for about £20,000. The wine-growing around Bordeaux, the cap of the Gironde, is largely flat and monotonous, but it is the

APOLLO



# ANTIC COAST

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSE DREYER



## WHERE TO SHOP

SURELY nobody goes shopping on holiday? Some hope. There is a cosmopolitan feel to most shopping these days which has infected even the insular French, who know how to set up a tourist-targeted display as well as the next window dresser. But if there is one overwhelming advantage to self-catering in France, it is the opportunity to plunder the shops for delicious local produce.

In this respect the coast divides roughly north-south. The northern ports tempt with succulent street stall displays of shellfish, especially mussels. The French use the latter in a mussel stew which is made with cream and white wine. Royan is famous for sardines, which can be bought early morning in the port area, straight off the boats (via a middleman).

Non-fish specialties in the north include innumerable goats' cheeses and melons brought in from the Charente.

The south is famous far beyond its own shores for Bayonne ham (jambon de Bayonne), a somewhat mystical name given that ham has never been cured at Bayonne: it comes from Orthez in the Béarn. The curing process is equally mystical, involving pigs bred in a certain area and salt from a spring at Salies-de-Béarn. Whatever the ins and outs, the result is delicious.

Maize-fed chickens are a specialty of the Landes. Nobody visiting the far south should miss out, either, on Gâteau Basque. I wrote about this splendid cake several years ago in *The Times*, saying that I had lost a recipe given me by a woman in St Jean-Pied-de-Port. The article was translated and appeared in a French newspaper, which the woman read. She then sent me the recipe. I have now lost it again. Madame, s'il-vous-plait?

But beware of Gâteau Basque drying out. In St Jean de Luz we bought some that was deliciously moist in Etchebaster, a pâtisserie on the rue Gambetta (010 33



Queen of tarts: fruits of the pâtisserie

59 26 00 80). The same shop sells excellent macaroons.

If Bayonne cannot lay claim to its ham, it can take credit for magnificent chocolate, which has been made there since the 17th century. The liquid version, drinking chocolate, was apparently regarded as an elixir: be that as it may, the combination of chocolate, peppers, honey and maize is a delicious concoction.

Perhaps the best, if not the best known, liquor available in the south is a specifically Basque drink called Izarra. This costs between FF80 and FF90 a bottle and it goes down like nectar.

If you insist on something to bring home, a shop called Elise in the boulevard Thiers, St Jean-de-Luz, sells the best range of locally-produced embroidered linens. There are several similar shops on the edge of the old port area.

## WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

THERE may well be lots of places in France where you can eat a lousy meal. In 20 years, I have found perhaps two.

So I am acutely aware that, in recommending eating places, people with better developed palates than mine could find six better restaurants within half a mile. But resorts can, I suppose, be more risky than inland areas where the locals have to be satisfied more completely than the tourists, so here are some suggestions.

● **Capbreton:** This is a built-for-tourism town that does not at first sight promise quality eating. That is until you sit down at Le Café Bellevue (58 72 10 30), where we got through some ozone-fresh langoustine and lobster. Pricey but worth it.

● **St Jean-de-Luz:** The Hotel Grand took on a new chef, Patrice Demangel, three years ago. He is young and quite brilliant. My wife had a starter consisting of green and white asparagus in a sauce made from eggs and butter: the

thought of it lights up her face even now. We had veal as the main course and a very clever dessert based on the game of pelota using sorbets and chocolate. Scrumptious. Expensive, if this good can ever be called that.

● **La Rochelle:** Le Corail is a genuinely cheap and cheerful restaurant in the Place de la Chaine (46 50 59 69) run by a French couple who offer two menus, at FF55 and FF90, with a surprisingly wide choice of courses on each: four starters, four main courses and three desserts. This can often reflect an excess of zeal, but not here.

● **Fouas:** this pretty resort north of Rochefort has the perfect antidote to heat-inducing thirst: a shady café with padded chairs called La Cafété, on La Grande Plage, where they serve a FF50 brunch between 10am and 3pm. The meal consists of smoked fish, stewed fruit, eggs, fresh orange juice, toast, pastries and a drink. The à la carte menu has excellent crêpes.

## HOW TO GET THERE

THE fastest route to the west coast in your own car involves a toss-up between time spent on the boat and time spent on the road. Portsmouth-St Malo is the longest ferry journey (nine hours) but it gets you to the N137 which goes to Nantes via Rennes, and which is acquiring more dual carriageway every year. (As we went to press Brittany Ferries said there had been no problems with blocked roads around St Malo. Take a good map and keep to minor roads.) Southampton, Weymouth or Portsmouth to Cherbourg is faster (five to six hours) but most of the advantage is lost in an extended road journey.

French Railways (SNCF) has recently started a TGV Atlantique, operating from Paris. There is a westward

route to Brest and Nantes and a southwest route to Bordeaux and Toulouse. For those who like to mix their travel modes this raises the option of flying to Nantes and catching a train to, say, Bordeaux, then hiring a car.

Flying may seem the fastest way to go, but that depends on whether your nearest regional airport lies to the place you want.

Brittany Ferries Plymouth-Roscoff, Portsmouth-St Malo (0705 527701), Sea-Bank Weymouth and Portsmouth-Cherbourg (0233 647047), P&O Portsmouth-Cherbourg/Le Havre (0304 203388). Air France has flights from some British regional airports to Biarritz, Bordeaux and Nantes (071-499 9511). BA operates to Bordeaux (081-897 4000).

## EVENTS

IN SPITE of friendly Atlantic breezes there is no doubt that the further south you go in high summer the more sun-hardened you will need to be. The south really comes into its own at either end of summer for those who want to be warm rather than toasted: La Rochelle is especially pleasant in September, but take a brotly.

I have always thought that, given the paucity of such places in the UK, visiting a vineyard is no mean event. The Maison du Vin, 1 Cours du 30 Juillet, Bordeaux 33000 (56 00 22 66), is the best source of bookings.

Two of the biggest events in St Jean-de-Luz each sum-

mer are the tuna festival on July 4 and the *toro* (a Basque fish stew) festival on September 5. The fishy flavour is also to be found in Le Nuit de la Sardine, which happens twice this year: today, and on August 8.

St Jean also has an international piano festival (July 1-3) and a rugby tournament (August 13-15).

The Atlantic coast is a fine place for yachismen, aloft and just speccing. The biggest event is the La Rochelle yachting festival, in effect a boat show, which takes place in September (16-21). La Rochelle also has a film festival in June and a music festival in July (11-16).

Old harbour lights: the glitter of Biarritz may have faded from the old glory days, but no amount of neglect can alter the town's position at the heart of a magnificent bay

of lunch in the village of Ars; right, taking the sun at Biarritz

architectural feel which is neither fish nor fowl. The road takes you on to the two most northerly resorts on this stretch: Rochefort and La Rochelle. Rochefort is in fact an inland town on the Charente, whose port was built for the military in the 17th century.

La Rochelle has my vote on this northern stretch. Here the battlements rise splendidly, a reminder of the town's place in history when it was blockaded for 15 months by Cardinal Richelieu's troops. When the gates finally opened on October 28, 1628, the population had declined from 28,000 to 5,000. There is no need to starve in La Rochelle these days. The old port area is packed with res-

taurants offering everything from local oysters to Vietnamese and Chinese food. There are plenty of beaches, and it is worth taking a boat trip from the harbour to the nearby Ile d'Aix, a perfect walking spot mercifully almost free of motorised transport.

One of the difficulties attached to writing about the French Atlantic coast has been deciding what, and where, to omit. But that is also part of the enjoyment. Some places we planned to visit somehow escaped us, usually for want of time. That is perhaps the best tribute I can pay to the area: usually coastal holidays leave me kicking my heels, this one left me wanting to go back.

● Next week: the Loire valley



Property in the Vendée with caretaker's cottage for £52,500

important wine-producing region in the world, including many famous names and areas, such as St Emilion, Médoc, Entre Deux Mers, Graves and Sauternes.

Less well known are its huge, Atlantic-swept beaches and the hunting and shooting paradise of Les Landes, a vast expanse of pine forests, lakes and sand dunes extending south for 150

miles to Bayonne. The area is still relatively undiscovered by British property buyers, and property prices are reasonably low. A small farmhouse needing renovation can cost as little as £20,000 in the more remote parts. Habitable houses cost from £30,000.

Some of the best property buys are to be found around the medieval town of St Macaire,

and near Langon, an old town on the banks of the Garonne river, about 30 miles southeast of Bordeaux. 45 minutes inland from the coast. The countryside is pretty and peaceful, and a dilapidated *fermette* (farm cottage) on half an acre can still be bought for less than £25,000.

A restored country house with four or five bedrooms, a mile or so from the Sauternes wine area, costs about £65,000. For the wine buff, about £250,000 will buy a 13th-century manor house, with a working Bordeaux vineyard.

Prices are lower further south in Les Landes. Half-timbered woodmen's houses with steeply sloping roofs start at £20,000 for anything that is habitable. A traditional black and white timbered *Landaise* house, fully restored, on the edge of the Landes regional park, about 50 miles south of Bordeaux, costs about £45,000.

The Basque coast of the Pyrénées Atlantiques is lovely, but not without its share of concrete and crowded beaches. Biarritz, once the epitome of style for the English aristocrat wintering abroad, is the most fashionable of the Basque resorts, and the most expensive. A one-bedroom seafront flat here costs at least £80,000.

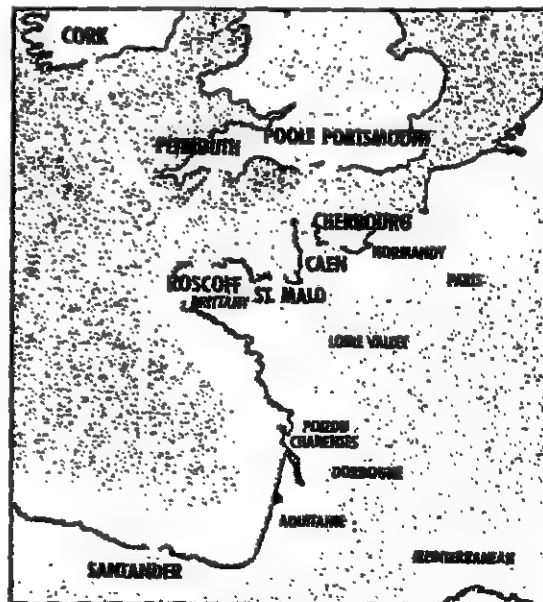
Inland, around Pau, the capital city of ancient Béarn in the foothills of the Pyrénées, there is still plenty of property for less than £50,000. Prices start at £20,000 for a small run-down cottage, and from £28,000 for a village house.

The Pyrénées Atlantiques is reached by the A10 autoroute from Paris to Bordeaux and Biarritz, or by air to Biarritz, 90 minutes on the motorway from Pau. Allow at least two days, with an overnight stop, for the drive from Calais.

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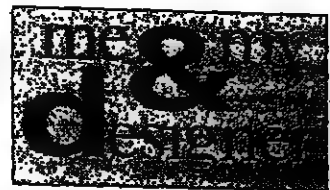
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# Fantasy of the secret garden



**Leonie Jameson**  
meets a couple with  
ideas and the  
determination to  
create an  
impressive  
country garden

Shaun and Camilla Woodward bought their 18th-century Cotswold stone house, with 19th-century additions by a pupil of William Morris, intending it to be their home for life. Now they are creating a beautiful, lasting garden.

Mr Woodward, aged 33, who has just resigned as communications director of the Conservative party, and Mrs Woodward, a member of the Sainsbury family, want their home in Gloucestershire to be a complete contrast to their London home.

Mr Woodward admits that he knew little about gardens before they bought the house. Research into local architecture and Morris's Arts and Crafts movement led him into garden design. "Then I discovered that Camilla's grandparents were friends of Rosemary Verey, the garden designer, who lives near here. Now I have a room full of garden books," he says.

Their interior decorator, Dudley Poplak, introduced them to garden designer Christopher Masson, a New Zealander, who has helped the couple to realise what Mr Woodward calls their "inarticulate fantasies".

Mr Masson describes Mr Woodward's approach as meticulous: Mrs Woodward, he says, wields a "broad brush with a great feel for gardens" — as is evident in the vast carpet of 5,000 daffodil bulbs she had planted on either side of the old main gate.

She was concerned that their children Tom, aged three, and Ella, one, should be able to enjoy the garden, so she had a grassy ramp built leading off the croquet lawn for the children to ride down on their bikes, although Mr Masson wanted a matching pair of stone steps.

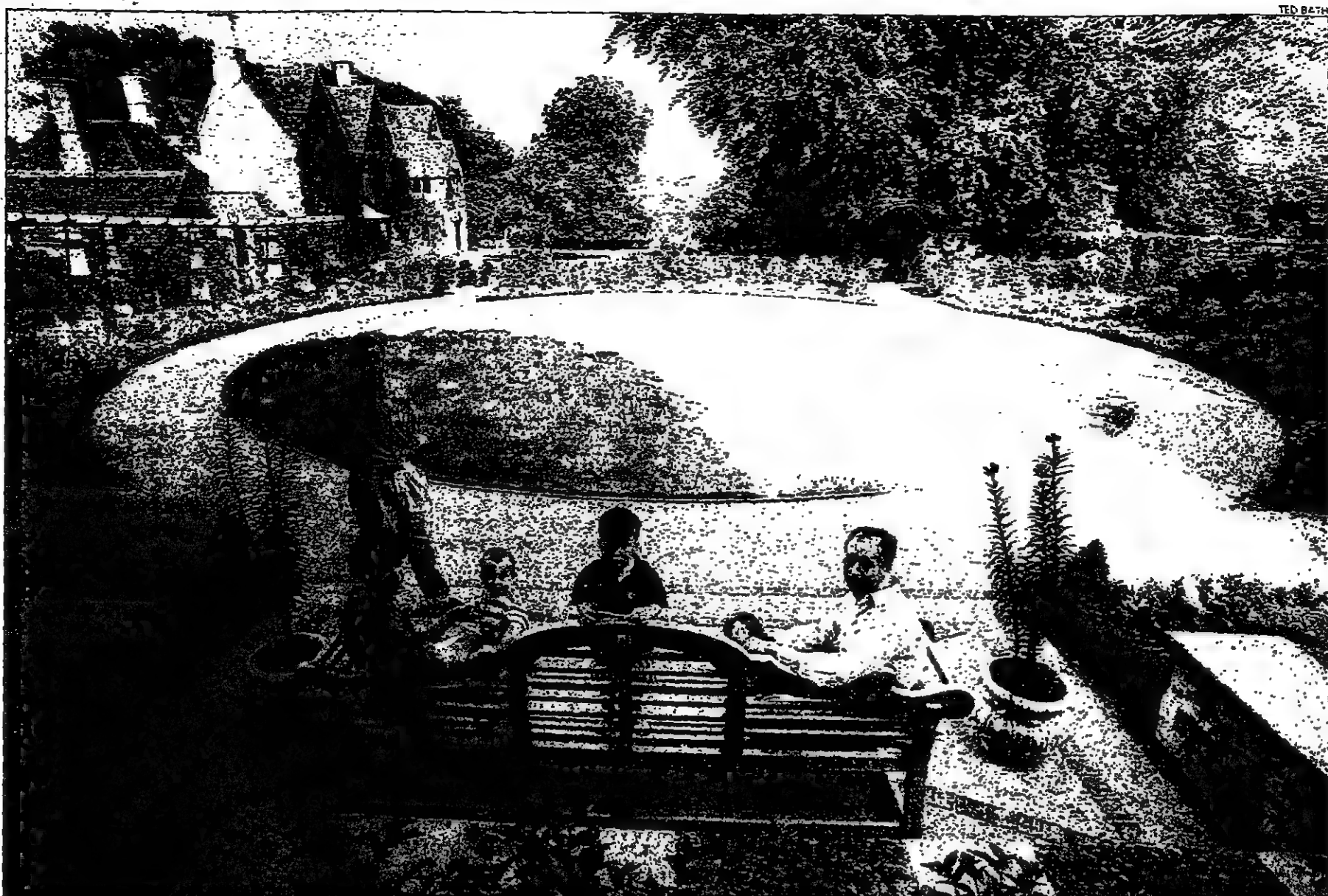
He says the Woodwards wanted a family garden but with well-defined sections, linked by thematic repetition of details, such as balls of box hedge on the lawn.

Mr Woodward also pressed for a white garden: "I had this fantasy of a secret garden, which you couldn't see out of and which couldn't be seen properly from the house, but would shimmer in the twilight and draw you into it."

The "secret" garden is surrounded by a yew hedge that will eventually grow to about 12ft and is entered through arches of white roses and clematis. An original stone and wood pergola was extended, and a Russian vine replaced by wisteria which, in spring, will create a white tunnel.

In devising a planting plan, Mr Masson says he wanted to introduce more green and avoid too much grey. He prefers clumps of grasses with plumed heads to the spreading varieties.

"The planting in the borders is not identical so you do not think, when you've seen one side, that you need not look at the other," he says.



Garden with a view to the future: designer Christopher Masson (standing) with Camilla and Shaun Woodward and their children, Ella and Tom, at their Gloucestershire home

But the whole is united by repeated patterns: clumps of white tulips and narcissi in spring, and lilies in summer. One attempt to provide year-round interest, with an August and September flowering of Romneya poppies, has temporarily foundered in the heavy soil.

For winter interest he placed yuccas at the base of the pergola. Mr Masson's original design had wooden arches, but Mr Woodward suggested metal ones, crowned with a fleur-de-lis motif which echoes that on original Arts and Crafts metal fencing along one side of the garden. The blacksmith who made the arches was found by Graduate Gardeners, a firm which has done much of the planting.

At the end of the pergola, and linked by steps to the white garden, is Mr Woodward's pet project: a walled organic vegetable garden. The only spray the full-time gardener uses is soap. Mr Woodward says: "I don't take an eccentric view of chemicals, they have their place in industrial production, but I think that food grown without them tastes better." (Mrs Woodward says she has no qualms about spraying the greenery in their London garden.)

There are plans to install Mediterranean plants around the swimming pool and to plant a hazel wood. Huge earth works are under way to create a terrace with formal topiary. There are also plans for a severe space, "like a jousting field", surrounded by lime trees, a butterfly garden, and a meadow area sown with wild flowers.

"The Woodwards say they are restoring the garden to its original state, but in fact they are doing much more than was dreamt of 100 years ago," Mr Masson says.

Christopher Masson can be contacted on 071-223 0045, Graduate Gardeners on 0452 770273.

## Skiing to the back door

The Chalet Mazot is perched on a wooded mountainside near the pretty, unspoilt alpine town of La Clusaz, in the Haute-Savoie, with access to skiing at 2,600m with 56 ski lifts, including three cable cars. This traditional timber-clad chalet is on the market at £60,000, through Alpine Apartments.

Built in stone and wood under a low pitched slate roof, the two-bedroom chalet is in good condition, with a modern kitchen and bath. It has a large beamed living area, with an open stone fireplace, wooden balconies and superb views over the Petit Bornand valley to the Alps.

The price includes a garage, ski-locker and a small garden. The nearest airport is Geneva, about 45 minutes' drive away.

The area around Lake Annecy in the Haute-Savoie is rustic and unspoiled, scattered with picturesque alpine villages and low-key ski resorts. Annecy itself is an interesting old city, at the edge of a turquoise lake.

La Clusaz, an old town situated in the Aravis mountains to the east of Annecy, is both a summer and winter resort. There is good skiing, downhill and cross-country in winter, while during the summer months golf, tennis, swimming, riding, rock-climbing, canoeing and hang-gliding are on offer.

Easily reached by plane to Geneva (less than an hour's drive from Annecy) or by high-speed train (TGV) from Paris to Annecy (three and a half hours), the area is becoming popular with British second-home buyers, and traditional

alpine chalets are now in short supply. There is little left for less than £60,000, and prices continue to rise.

Property prices vary, depending mainly on location and accessibility to the lake and to ski slopes. The cheapest house on the shores of Lake Annecy is likely to cost at least £150,000. Old village houses, with two or three bedrooms, good views and masses of character, but no garden, cost from £55,000 for anything that is habitable.

Newly built apartments with direct access to skiing cost from



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**HAUTE-SAVOIE**

£32,000 for a flat with one bedroom and from £45,000 up to £80,000 for those with two or three bedrooms. But you must expect to pay at least £50,000 for a one-bedroom.

A rash of French specialist agencies has sprung up in Britain over the past five years. Some are more reputable than others. British agents cannot sell property in France without a full French licence, which very few have. Most work with French agents and share the commission on a 50:50 basis, so the buyer should not be paying any more by using a British agent. However, some charge an additional fee, which may be difficult to spot if the agent quotes an inclusive price. It is important before agreeing a purchase to ascertain how much commission you are paying and to whom.

**CHERYL TAYLOR**

Alpine Apartments, Hinton Manor, Eardisland, near Leominster, Hereford & Worcester (05447 234).



Alpine hideaway: the Chalet Mazot, near Annecy, costs £60,000



Cosy: living area with fireplace

## Welcome handful for the green-fingered

If a house's garden is almost more important than the dwelling itself, then the Garden House, three miles north of Tonbridge, Kent, is aptly named: for a garden lover this nine-acre domain is excellent both for what it has now, and for its potential. According to the present owner, almost anything grows "like Topsoil" in the walled garden.

Placed against the south-facing wall of a Victorian walled garden — originally the estate agent, supplying fruit, flowers and vegetables to Dene Park, a nearby Victorian mansion — the house is something of a surprise. It is a dark-stained cedarwood slab Cot house, built by local builders of that name in 1958, and not at all in keeping with the low, red-brick Victorian outbuildings behind. Presumably planning restrictions were less draconian 34 years ago.

In simplicity — the four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a drawing-room, sitting-room, dining-room and kitchen are all either square or rectangular — belies its roominess and comfort. The drawing-room measures 18 ft by 20 ft and the adjacent sitting room is 20 ft by 12 ft. A carved granite fireplace in the drawing-room is the only notable architectural detail in the interior.

The present owners, who are Swedish, have given their home a distinct atmosphere reminiscent of a rambling holiday house somewhere by an imaginary lake. Much of the interior is painted in pale pastels; the wooden dining-room floor is decorated with a border of stencilled flowers.

Grandness is not the overriding quality, but there is an air of

relaxing comfort for an active family which enjoys outdoor pursuits and entertaining. The accommodation has been extended by building two more bedrooms and an extra sitting-room in the low outbuildings behind.

One of the house's great advantages, according to the estate agent, is that it is centrally placed, completely surrounded by its own land. The secluded feeling is emphasised by the 14 ft wall in soft red bricks which encloses two acres of land. Nowadays, houses built close to roads are becoming difficult to sell; vehicles on the road nearest to the Garden House are audible from the garden only on a quiet summer's day.

Most of the bedrooms and

reception rooms look south on to the garden. Both the sitting-room and the dining-room have French windows which open on to a terrace with a small, raised fish pond in the shape of a half moon. A maple tree, which turns bright yellow and gold in the autumn, shades part of the terrace.

Down the centre of the garden, much of which is laid with soft lawn, is a small avenue of red rose trees on the left and lavender, poppies and a small box hedge to the right. An expanse of well mown lawn is flat enough for a good game of croquet.

The avenue continues to a centre point, where two tall yew trees are flanked by neat lines of waist-high privet hedge, which are in turn



**Garden House**  
**Tonbridge**

fronted by a row of apple and pear trees, dividing the garden while forming an entrance into the second part.

Within the first half, several enormous banks of deep blue lavender bushes allowed the previous owners of the house to sell the fragrant fresh flowers, tied up in posies, to Fortnum & Mason in

London during the 1960s. Nearby, borders of old roses, wild roses and miniature roses flourish, together with hollyhocks, honeysuckle and an abundance of deep and pale pink peonies.

Some of the herbaceous borders have been allowed to get out of control in a pleasantly chaotic manner — a tidy gardener might frown at the thriving giant thistles or at the vine struggling to survive on the west-facing wall.

Nearer to the house, herbs — including more lavender — and a fig tree are grown; the latter is heavy with green fruit which gradually ripens during the summer. Several types of mint can be found, as well as a large bay tree, rosemary, thyme and sage; *fraises*

*du bois* grow everywhere in an old garden.

A large wisteria covers much of the east-facing wall, and further down there is a clematis and two magnolia trees. Peonies, geraniums, lupins and a variety of shrubs grow in the deep border beside the wall. At the halfway point of the garden the border gives way to ranks of raspberry canes, redcurrants and blackcurrants; behind the soft fruit, five varieties of apple and pear trees climb up and along the wall.

The fruit border looks on to what was the kitchen garden but which is now a wilderness of long grass and wild flowers. A few fruit trees, mainly cherry and pear, grow near the rhubarb, by some iron railings

### Heap of the week

## Regency shell needs love

CRACKEMARSH Hall, in Staffordshire, looks beyond saving, but country houses in an almost equally dilapidated state, such as Finedon Hall in Northamptonshire, have been successfully reconstructed, so Crackemash may find a champion yet.

The crumbling shell can be glimpsed from the new B5030 from Unoxeter to Alton Towers, just before the great landscaped factory of J.C. Bamford, with its memorable space-intruder sculpture made out of digger arms.

Crackemash dates from the Regency and was built for Sir Thomas Cotton-Sheppard, who died in 1822. The entrance is on the old road, past an octagonal gate lodge and the recently restored stables, then along a track to the left.

At the south end of the house are the remains of a succumbed wing, with a three-sided bay on either side, rather like a Soanian villa. This has almost entirely collapsed. Beyond, the two-story pink brick shell of the entrance front stands without windows or roof. Behind are further wings, all very derelict.

But for the new road, barely 20 yards away, this would be an idyllic spot. In front of the house is a beautiful lake, half lost among the reeds.



Burnt: Crackemash Hall

J.C. Bamford bought the house in 1973. It was empty, and the company had plans to turn it into a training centre. But dry rot had taken hold and restoration, estimated at £400,000, was deemed prohibitive.

In 1977 the company offered the house for sale without success. Six years later there was a serious fire.

East Staffordshire district council took the view that the most important features were the splendid 17th-century carved wooden staircase incorporated in the Regency house and various mahogany doors. J.C. Bamford confirms that it has these in safe keeping.

Permission was given to demolish the rest but it was not acted on, although surely not for want of equipment.

There are now new houses discreetly established in the walled garden; J.C. Bamford has itself renovated the stables, while the lake is let to a fishing club.

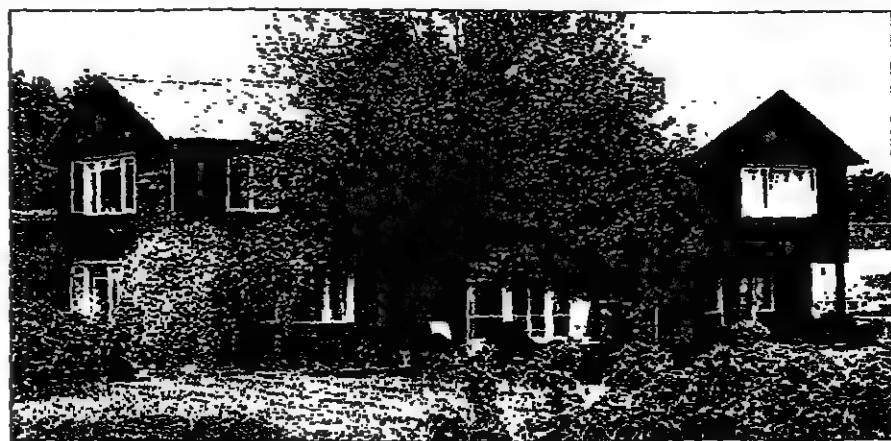
The company says it will consider any sensible proposition, but it will be a labour of love, best suited to owners able to do a great deal of the building work themselves.

**MARCUS BINNEY**

For further information contact Michael Hancock at J.C. Bamford on 0899 590312.



Garden of England: as the name implies, the extensive grounds and magnificent planting of the Garden House near Tonbridge, Kent, are its main selling points



at the end of the garden. The slightly spongy hard tennis court in the opposite corner has two silver green artichoke plants flourishing beside it: the plants are highly productive, and several tiny artichoke heads are now growing in the sun.

To the east side of the walled garden lies a paddock with more fruit trees — with further planting it could be more productive as an orchard. To the west a two- to three-acre cobnut wood produces about two tons of cobnuts (a large type of hazelnut) each autumn. Picking the nuts can be an arduous business, the owner says. In the past, when cobnuts were rare, people would drive from as far as Wales to buy them at the Garden House.

This is a family house and garden first and foremost. At the back of the house there are various outbuildings, garages and stabling for two, as well as a large paddock, providing a good life for horses.

The property includes about three acres of broadleaf woodland beyond the paddock. This needs thinning but could be the source of a great project for the tree enthusiast.

The asking price is £325,000, but the estate agent believes that the Garden House's value could be increased if a purchaser was eager, energetic and wealthy enough to replace the Cot house with something which harmonised more with its surroundings. Otherwise, the new owners might just want to concentrate on their green fingers.

**JOANNA GIBBON**

Lane Fox, 3 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1AH (0732 459900)









New life French style: the drawing-room with black and white marble floor at Le Manoir de Champfreau, bought by Alex Davidson

## Better life at half the price

Rising at 7am, Alex Davidson walks his four cocker spaniels around the perimeter of his walled 15th-century French manor house, and has only to stroll 100 yards to the local village for a fresh baguette for breakfast. Anjou-style.

He has enjoyed this way of life since he decided four years ago that he had had enough of the stresses of London and moved to the Loire. "I needed a new incentive," he says. "I had fallen in love with the town of Chinon and searched the area for a home. There are so many links with English history here. Chinon, on the river Vienne — the burial place of Henry II and, according to local legend, of Richard the Lionheart — is 15 minutes away by car. Saumur is ten.

Mr Davidson, who is an interior decorator and book illustrator, set out to find somewhere that could give him everything his four-story house in Hammersmith, west London, could not: a manor house, if possible, built in old stone and in its own grounds, well away from roads and neighbours. He knew that such properties were available: the seven estate agents in Saumur have houses ranging from a small manor house for £90,000 to a medieval chateau at £380,000.

In August 1988, at the peak of

Alex Davidson swapped stress for serenity at his French manor. Kay Marles reports

Britain's property boom. Mr Davidson found Le Manoir de Champfreau, and later bought it for £200,000. Little more than half the value of his Hammersmith house. The conveyancing proved to be a headache, involving French bureaucracy, never-ending documentation and escalating costs. The purchase took at least six months, during which the asking price of £120,000 rose by £80,000. The inflated figure was because of the additional land Mr Davidson bought, and the fees he had to pay to the estate agent, the solicitor and the ministry of agriculture. "The real shock was having to pay £7,000 to get my name put on the deeds," he says.

Mr Davidson's "empire" is grand and well-preserved, with a towering gatehouse, the spacious manor house, a 16th-century barn, a smaller house (c. 1706) and a collection of outbuildings, with patisserie oven, dairy and well.

Beyond the walled gardens and remaining part of a moat are 52

acres of apple orchards producing Golden Delicious, Granny Smith's and Canadian russets, tended by two local women, from which Mr Davidson receives a small annual income.

The south-facing main house, built in sandstone with a grey slate roof, is dominated by a roomy entrance hall and drawing-room, both of which have cool marble floors in black and white. Mr Davidson, an expert on middle-eastern art, decoration and furnishings, shipped most of his furniture to France, filling the house with inlaid chests and carved mirrors. Islamic and oriental rugs, busts, candelabra and decorative boxes. To add to the eclectic mix, he has bought furniture locally: a buffet from a convent cost £14, a huge pine wardrobe £48, and a linen press £32.

"I had a bizarre collection of furniture in my London home," he says. "Fortunately it fits in here and looks just as good."

The square entrance hall is strikingly painted in red; the draw-

ing-room has pillars and wing-backed armchairs. As well as a 15th square kitchen, there are two bedrooms on the ground floor, one with a four-poster bed, another with a gothic window.

Mr Davidson has converted the barn and smaller house into living accommodation, and it is into this that he moves when he and his French partner, Michel, a confectionery specialist, let the main house, or have friends to stay.

Having found the tranquillity he sought, he enjoys rural life to the full. He has made friends among the local art and antique dealers and artists, and eats out with them for as little as £8 for four courses. "In a fish region like this, pike and halibut feature large on the menu," he says. "There are excellent local wines — £4.50 will buy a good bottle of sparkling Saumur — and there are delicious aperitifs made from sloe leaves and white wine."

Mr Davidson still needs to visit London for business — he is launching his own collection of wallpaper next autumn. He shuttles backwards and forwards by overnight coach from Victoria to Tours for £82.

● Rentals for Le Manoir de Champfreau can be made through Sarl Aurelis, Champfreau, 49730 Vireneux-sur-Loire, France (010 33 41 51 47 95).

Win a weekend away in The Times/Veuve Clicquot competition

## First lady of fizz



La Veuve: a modern woman

EVERLYN Waugh wrote that many Englishmen would call for "a bottle of the widow" in the belief "that like 'fizz' or 'bubbly' it was merely another slang term for champagne". As a synonym for champagne, "the widow" may have faded from popular use but the wine to which it refers, Veuve Clicquot, is as fashionable as ever.

The company was named by la veuve (the widow) Clicquot Ponsardin almost two centuries ago, when war meant that cases of the champagne had to be smuggled out of France, in diplomatic bags, as well as by ship from Rouen to St Petersburg. Since then the wine has been a favourite of nobles and royalty around the world. Veuve Clicquot's full-bodied Grand Dame 1985 is the champagne offered by Air France on Concorde.

The life of Nicole-Barbe Clicquot Ponsardin would appeal to today's independent-minded women. When her husband died in 1805, she set about making the most of the acres of vineyards and miles of chalk cellars she inherited, instead of hiring a man to run the business. Today the company recalls her spirit in its annual businesswoman of the year award.

Mme Clicquot Ponsardin set out to improve the wine-making technology, adapting a piece of furniture from her home to develop the remuage process that makes today's champagne light, clear and limpid.

She promoted her product among the influential people of the day, persuading leading society figures and intellectuals to sing the praises of her wine. She developed export markets, urging staff to take risks to sell cases throughout a war-torn Europe. Now more than 80 per cent of Veuve Clicquot's wine is sold abroad.

Devising the distinctive yellow label, which identifies a bottle of Veuve Clicquot at a glance, was a move that would impress a modern marketing executive. The present owners are even now trying to secure the particular shade of yellow as a trade mark.

The company established itself as the forefront of the champagne

industry, winning the superior classification on the Echelle de crus, the official scale that ranks vineyards.

More than 130 workers tend almost 700 acres of land, growing the pinot noir and chardonnay grapes. Below ground, in the cellars created in Gallo-Roman times, more than 32 million bottles are aged for three years and cared for by 200 workers.

Mme Clicquot died in 1866, but her innovative spirit still seems to inspire the company. Impressed by the quality of sparkling wines emanating from the New World in the 1980s, the company wondered whether their lower prices might limit sales of champagne. Realising that the states of Victoria and New South Wales were well-trodden by European winemakers, Veuve Clicquot began looking to the other side of the world.

The company bought a controlling interest in Cape Mennelle, a winery in Margaret River, in southwestern Australia, not to develop French-style wine but to market the best Australian wine in Europe. Production will be left to the local people.

With Cape Mennelle came ownership of New Zealand's Cloudy Bay winery, which produces some of the best antipodean wines.

The new venture has proved a canny move, worthy of the widow herself.

ISHBEL SCOTT

## Enjoy a weekend in Champagne



Ten runners-up will receive a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Brut "Yellow Label", which is based on the traditional blending, reflecting Mme Clicquot's vineyard holdings, and the continuity so dear to the House of Veuve Clicquot.

● How to enter: answer the three questions below, send your answers on a postcard, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: The Times/Veuve Clicquot Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 8NG.

Questions  
1 What is the name of the process which removes the sediment and clarifies the champagne?  
2 When was Madame Clicquot widowed?  
3 What do the French words "la veuve" mean?

Rules  
The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd, Veuve Clicquot, their families or agents are not eligible. Entries must be received by Monday July 20, 1992. Winners will be notified by Friday July 24, 1992. The editor's decision is final. Times competition rules apply, and are available on request.

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10.00 **Sign Extra: Wish you weren't Here.** A report on how the environment will need to be protected from tourism (135638)  
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3.00 **Eldorado** (1). (Cee-fax) (13386)  
3.30 **84 Charing Cross Road.**  
● **CHOICE:** It was unlikely enough as a stage play and even more unlikely as a film. The raw material was a correspondence between Helene Hanft, an exotist New York writer, and Frank Doel, a dutiful London bookseller, during the post-war austerity. He sent her rare books, she cheered him up with food parcels. Their relationship became a sort of love affair, though they never met. Given the task of filming what seemed to be an unfilmable director David Jones steered a shrewd middle way, making the story flow while retaining the temptation to open it up. The central characters are precisely located in the cities they inhabit, affluent Manhattan and drab London. And are superbly played by Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. The film is modest, gentle and amusing, virtues rarely associated with the cinema these days. (Cee-fax) (139725)  
5.05 **Breakfast.** Julian Pettifer introduces viewers' complaints and opinions on **Gardeners' World** and **EastEnders**. (Cee-fax) (7300589)  
5.50 **Masterchef 1992.** Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, and restaurateur Alastair Little join Loyd Grossman in his quest to find Britain's top amateur chef. (Cee-fax) (836725)  
6.25 **News with Chris Lowe.** (Cee-fax) (824396)  
6.40 **Titchmarsh on Song.** Alan Titchmarsh continues his nationwide musical pilgrimage. He meets Cliff Richard and Mary O'Hara who help him explore electronic songs of praise. (Cee-fax) (882299)  
7.15 **Scotchbair: Past and Present.** The penultimate episode of the Scottish drama series set in the 1950s. Flora receives a formal proposal of marriage from Andrew. (Cee-fax) (854378)



Seduced by an illicit passion: Jason Donovan (8.05pm)

8.05 **Shadows of the Heart.** Jason Donovan shrugs off his coat of many colours to star in this mini-series about forbidden love on a remote island. The first of two parts. (Cee-fax) (70461725)  
9.40 **News with Martin Lewis.** (Cee-fax) (655657)  
9.55 **Pompidou.** Five-star prison comedy by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (1). (Cee-fax) (720980)  
10.25 **Choice of the Matter.**  
● **CHOICE:** Joan Bakewell investigates the claims of church-based counselling services to offer a "cure" to gay Christians who feel uneasy about their sexual orientation. The argument of the "gay" movement is twofold. Homosexuality is a sin, condemned by the Bible, and therefore incompatible with the Christian faith. Secondly, since homosexuality is not inherited but caused by arrested emotional development, it is a condition that can be treated and even reversed. As Bakewell reports, both of these points are highly contentious. Critics of ex-gay ministries say they are using the Bible to give legitimacy to their personal dislike of homosexuals. On the other hand there is no more convinced proponent of counselling than a Baptist minister whose son, a gay Christian, committed suicide (1353020)  
11.00 **Knight and Days.** American comedy series (961183)  
11.25 **The Perfect English Village.** Nigel Farnell's search takes him to the most unlikely location (1457980). 12.20am **Weather** (9149416)

**BBC2**

6.00 **Tosca.** Puccini's opera drama from Rome reaches its climax with Act Three, which takes place in the prison of the Castel Sant'Angelo on the banks of the Tiber. (Cee-fax) (1353638)  
6.35 **Open University: Maths Methods.** — **Vibration Absorbers** (7543183) 7.00 **Modern Art.** Beckmann (1202367) 7.25 **Floating an Integral** (2030102) 7.50 **Peter Bruegel and Popular Culture** (2748877) 8.15 **Running the Country** (1655541) 8.40 **Nature in Drinking Water** (2778259) 9.05 **Looking Again at Large Samples** (1484893) 9.30 **The Leathart Collection** (1575137) 9.55 **Science: Fires of Life** (2665600) 10.20 **Age and Identity** (7476551) 11.10 **Open Forum** (9149102) 11.35 **Kenyian Small Farmer** (3908675)  
12.00 **Regional Westminster Programmes** (895501). Northern Ireland: Greenfields; Wales: Scrutiny  
12.30 **Sunday Grandstand** introduced by Steve Rider from Silverstone. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.30 **Motor Racing:** a preview of the British grand prix; 2.00 **British Grand Prix:** live coverage of the race from Silverstone; 3.50 **Formula 3:** round ten of the championship; 4.30 **Athletics:** a feature on British two athletics captains, Lifford Christie and Sally Gunnell; 4.50 **Yachting:** an introduction to Britain's Olympic team and a look at the Ultra 30 Grand Prix Series. With Bob Fisher (2077221); 5.20 **Golf:** a preview of the British open championship which starts at Muirfield on Thursday  
5.45 **Film: Watership Down** (1978). Sir Michael Hordern narrates this animated version of Richard Adams' parable about the epic journey of a group of rabbits seeking a safe place to live. With the voices of John Hurt, Richard Briers, Ralph Richardson and others and featuring Art Garfunkel's song "Bright Eyes". Directed by Martin Rossmore (981386)  
7.15 **Life on Earth: The Rise of the Mammals.** David Attenborough looks at why the reptiles of 200 million years ago changed into mammals (1). (Cee-fax)



Time off: Yorkshire mill workers take to the saddle (8.10pm)

8.10 **A Day Out.** An Alan Bennett retrospective which runs until August 30 includes the *Talking Heads* monologues as well as several longer pieces. Originally screened in 1972, *A Day Out* was Bennett's first television play and embodies the whimsical, amused and slightly melancholic observation of northern working-class life which became his hallmark. On a Sunday in 1911 Yorkshire mill workers take to their bikes and ride to Fountains Abbey where they have a picnic, play cricket and pursue the local love. The gentle nostalgia is given a sharper edge by an epilogue set in November 1919. David Waller, John Norggion and James Cossins stand out in a fine ensemble cast and the director is Stephen Frears, a frequent Bennett collaborator now better known for cinema films such as *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *The Grifters* (1412015)  
9.05 **British Grand Prix.** Highlights of today's race from Silverstone (890454)  
9.40 **Escape from New York** (1981). Kurt Russell stars in this futuristic tale as a former war hero-turned convict who is offered a pardon if he can rescue the United States President from a maximum security prison. A tall story is handled with flair by director John (Hallowell) Carpenter (111367)  
11.20 **The Night Stalker.** Darren McGavin stars as an investigative reporter interested in the supernatural (1456251). Ends at 12.15am

**VideoPlus and the Video PlusCodes**  
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**ITV**

6.00 **TV-am** (3796015)  
9.25 **The Truck and the Giant Snow Bear.** A Disney adventure about the friendship between an Eskimo boy and a polar bear (7303509)  
10.15 **The Littlest Hobo.** Canine adventures (1357725)  
11.00 **News with Sue Carpenter.** Weather (1339799); 1.10 **LWT News and weather** (5558183)  
1.15 **Euro Auto Challenge.** A charity challenge to drive through every EC country without stopping or breaking speed limits (1354906)  
1.50 **Stuntmasters.** Heart-stopping feats (1275983)  
2.40 **Film: The Windtalkers.** (1975). George C. Scott and Anne Bancroft star in a war movie about the Japanese-American transatlantic journey made by the German airship in 1937. Directed by Robert Wise (8404218)  
4.50 **Film: Next to No Time** (1958). starring Kenneth More. A timid scientist comes up with an ingenious scheme to modernise his employer's factory. Lock-key comedy directed by Henry Cornelius of Geneva (114796305)  
6.30 **News with Sue Carpenter.** Weather (1339799); 6.35 **LWT News and weather** (923454)  
6.40 **Appeal.** Dickie Davies appeals on behalf of the British Sports Association for the Disabled (206259)  
6.45 **People Get Ready.** In the last programme of the series, Juliet Coley announces the winner of the Voice of the Year competition. (Grade) (1306164)  
7.15 **The Richard and Judy Show.** Richard Maseley and Judy Finnigan host the second of their live topical chat shows. Their guests are Nicholas Kallen, the 10-year-old who lost his sight in order to save his life, and Sue and John, his mother and father (1335305)  
7.45 **Watching.** Jim Hinchmough's comedy about an ill-matched pair of birdwatchers starring Emma Wray and Paul Brown. Will Malcolm go through with his wedding to Luanda? (1355676)  
8.15 **Second Thoughts.** James Bolam and Linda Bellingham star in this perceptive comedy series about a middle-aged couple starting a new relationship. Faith's attempt to encourage Gill to befriend her children lack subtlety (1). (Grade) (1306164)  
8.45 **Christine Cromwell: Only the Good Die Young.** Courtroom drama series starring Jayne Smith stars as a partner in a management firm. When two of her long-time friends meet accidental deaths, Christine begins to harbour doubts about a college investment club. (Grade) (89830034)



Doctor and nurses: Frankie Howard carries on (10.30pm)

10.30 **Film: Doctor and Nurses.** In his last television show, Frankie Howard keeps doctors and nurses waiting at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. (Grade) (1334731) 11.15 **LWT News with Sue Carpenter.** Weather (1339799); 11.20 **Richard Dignance: Greatest Hits.** The East End raconteur recorded at the Dome Theatre in Brighton during his recent concert tour (192541)  
12.20am **Cue the Music with Status Quo** (6634481)  
1.25 **Film: Mr Klein** (1976). Alain Delon and Jeanne Moreau star in a complex, enigmatic drama set in wartime Paris about an antiquarian who assumes the identity of a hunted Jew. Directed by Joseph Losey (2062088)  
4.35 **Pick of the Week.** Regional television highlights (1) (60210077)  
5.05 **Snap.** More madness and mayhem with the Tates and the Campbells (1) (3624961)  
5.30 **ITN Morning News** (51684) Ends at 6.00

**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 **Trans World Sport** (135890) 7.00 **Take 5** (87763) 7.30 **Sharkey and George** (864973) 8.05 **Pro Stars** (278928) 8.30 **Kelly** (70812) 9.00 **Little Shop Musical** cartoon (1410218)  
9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan.** Epic Indian drama. In Hindustani with English subtitles (1357718)  
10.00 **Talking Liberties** with Julia Kravets (13508270)  
10.45 **Dennis.** Animated adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends (17144367)  
11.00 **Owl TV.** Environmental series (1) (Teletext) (1218)  
11.30 **Flippers.** Adventures of a friendly dolphin (2947)  
12.00 **Little House on the Prairie.** The tribulations of a close-knit family (10328)  
1.00 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.** Adventures of an extraordinary submarine and her captain (Richard Basehart) (9676)  
2.00 **Film: June Bride** (1948). b/w. Strapping romantic comedy starring Bette Davis as a magazine editor whose former boyfriend (Robert Montgomery) is made her assistant. Trouble starts when they have to cover a wedding. Directed by Breiagne Windust (230251)  
3.45 **Rocky Toot Toot.** John Hubley's 1952 animated rendition of the Frankie and Johnny story (1273725)  
3.55 **Going for Gold.** The first of three Olympic documentaries, telling the inside story of the struggle between the clubs to host the 1992 games (1) (12192638)  
4.55 **News and weather** (5661544)  
5.00 **American Chronicles.** Richard Dreyfuss narrates a series of offbeat documentaries by David Lynch and Mark Frost. A profile of Playboy publisher Hugh Hefner. The programme looks for the reality amongst the media hype about this extraordinary man (1) (8541)  
5.30 **Tour de France Stage 8.** Valkenburg to Koblenz. Phil Liggett introduces highlights from the 180km leg (37560)  
6.30 **The Cosby Show.** American family comedy with Bill Cosby. Cliff's teenage cousin comes to live with the Huxtables. (Teletext) (473)  
7.00 **Invisible Enemies: The Origins of Disease.** The first in a new series looking at the relationship between history, destiny and disease. Today's programme investigates why a new disease sitting in Baltimore docks has not spread across America. (Teletext) (5) (4893)  
8.00 **Europe Express.** European current affairs series. This week: Isabella Sassi Castano reports from France, the first country in the EC to make sexual harassment at work a criminal offence. Stefan Rybar travels to Sofia to discover how the art treasures of Bulgaria are leaving the country at extraordinary speed; and Klaus Schwagrinn explores a loophole in the Netherlands' cannabis laws (2725)  
8.30 **Tosca.** A complete version of the weekend's event which took place in Rome in the settings and times specified by the composer (135307589)



Three men and a cabaret dancer: Anouk Aimee (11.05pm)

11.05 **Film: Lola** (1960, b/w)  
● **CHOICE:** The 29-year-old Jacques Demy dedicated Lola, his first feature film, to an idol of the French New Wave, Max Ophüls. The homage is in the reference to an Ophüls heroine, Lola Montez, in a plot which echoes a famous Ophüls subject, *La Ronde*, but most of all in the film's ornate and fluid visual style. Yet this is no mere pastiche but a joyous piece in its own right from a young filmmaker enchanted with the medium. A fairy tale of love lost and found, the film stars the enchanting Anouk Aimee as a cabaret dancer in Nantes who must choose between three men. As in *La Ronde* the narrative is perfectly structured but the lightness of the treatment banishes any hint of contrivance. Demy was helped by his cameraman, Raoul Coutard, and a music score which embraces Michel Legrand, Bach, Mozart and Beethoven (420821). Ends at 12.40am

**SATELLITE**

**SKY ONE**  
Via the Astra and Maripol satellites  
6.00am **Open Power** (25522) 7.00 **Fun Factory** (284299) 11.30 **The World Tomorrow** (66015) 12.00 **Lost in Space** (25660)  
1.00pm **Clifford's** (36980) 2.00 **Hart to Hart** (67299) 3.00 **Eight is Enough** (62831) 4.00 **Home** (58580) 5.00 **AM American** (12500) 6.00 **Growing Pains** (60211) 6.30 **The Simpsons** (4831) 7.00 **21 Jump Street** (84541) 8.00 **The Critical List** (First of a two-part mini-series) (70555) 10.00 **Falcon Crest** (6812) 11.00 **Entertainment Tonight** (7203) 12.00 **Pages from Sybil** (2003)

**SKY MOVIES**  
Via the Astra and Maripol satellites  
6.00pm **Shogun** (50228)  
8.30 **Eyes of a Witness** (1991). Daniel J. Travanti is arrested for murder (61251)  
10.00 **Troop Beverly Hills** (1988). Shirley Jones takes over her daughter's girl scout group (42541)

**SKY NEWS**  
Via the Astra and Maripol satellites  
6.00am **News** (150522) 9.30 **Dayline**

**SKY SPORTS**  
Via the Astra and Maripol satellites  
6.00am **World Sport** (130120) 7.00 **Motor Racing: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 8.00 **Motorworld** (53607) 8.30 **Superstars** (53608) 9.00 **WWE Wrestling** (20164) 10.00 **WWE Wrestling** (20164) 11.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 12.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 1.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 2.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 3.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 4.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 5.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 6.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 7.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 8.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 9.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 10.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 11.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 12.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** (13786) 1.00 **Motor Cycling: Hungarian Grand Prix** 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**CHANNEL 4**

- 6.00 **Jays and the Wheeled Warriors** (1969) 9.00  
**Castle** (J) (735071) 6.55 **Once Upon a Time... Life** (J)  
 (752695) 7.25 **London, Sweet London** (J) 9.00  
 (704988) 7.55 **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (747243)  
 (68658) 9.15 **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (747243)
- 10.00 **Silents** (J) Includes a profile of the deaf American artist **Harrison Williams**. In sign language (44343)
- 10.30 **Fire: Lazybones** (1934, 1936). Low budget comedy starring **Ray Hunter** as an impetuous baronet who hopes to rescue his family's fortunes by marrying an American heiress. A mishap of interest because of its director, **Michael Powell**. (2932053)
- 11.40 **The Three Stooges** (1936). The Stooges are chiefly for reporters and sent to cover a society wedding (3640362)
- 12.00 **Get Smart** (1965). Spies series (87985) 12.30 **The Beverly Hills Cop** (1986). Classic comedy series (73968)
- 1.00 **Film: Gaudancalari Diary** (1943, 1936). Foreign! second world war flagwaver following the fortunes of group of American mariners when they arrive in the Solomon Islands to drive out the Japanese

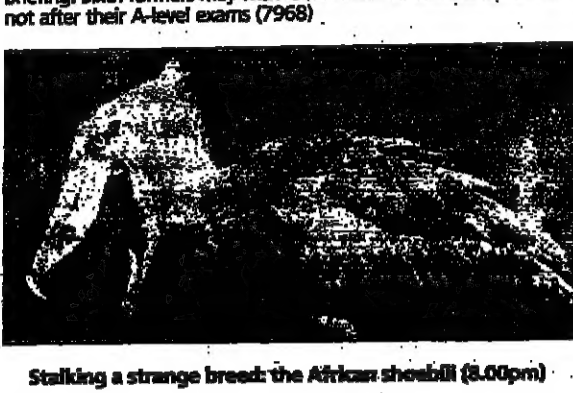
Directed by Lewis Sella (67834053). The band performs 2.40 Ozzy Nelson and his Orchestra. The band performs "Chinatown My Chinatown" and "Central Avenue Shuffle" (4708758).

3.00 **Chick & Racing from York and the Curragh** introduced by Derek Thonness. Live coverage of the 3.10, 3.40, 4.15 (John Smith's Magnet Cup) and 4.45 races from York and the 3.20 (Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks) from the Curragh (140811182).

5.05 **Broadsheet. Omnibus edition (Teletext) (6)** (tel 6937956).

6.30 **Tour de France. Stage 7: Roubaix to Valkenburg**, a distance of 180km (69129).

7.00 **The Big Picnic Show**  
● CHOICE: The misleadingly titled current affairs series this week discusses transport policy, suggesting that if current trends continue we face a nightmare of clogged roads, a truncated railway network and air pollution so bad that it will be dangerous to step out or breathe. The programme is based on statistics, many of them fascinating. It is startling to be reminded that 35 per cent of British households still have no car or to be told that the government subsidises company motoring to the tune of £2.4 billion a year. The preferred solutions, of course, are to subsidise private cars and invading more land for the family car. Since we as voters appear to have little enthusiasm for either perhaps we get the transport system we deserve. The series continues to offer an intelligent background to



**Kingdom of the Plains: Almost a Dodo. Photographer Cindy**

9.00 GBH: The fourth episode of Alan Bleasdale's incisive drama starring Lindsay Duncan, Robert Lindsay and Michael Palin. Jim Nelson receives surprising information and the mysterious Barbara Douglas provides Michael Murray with a ray of hope (R). (Teletext 5) (19089621)

10.35 Film: Les quatre Cents Coups (1959, b/w)  
 ● CHOICE: François Truffaut fashioned his first feature out of his own life, presenting the story of a 12-year-old boy from a poor quarter of Paris who is ignored by his parents, plays truant from school and is sent to a reformatory for juvenile delinquents. The

The ending is one of the most famous in the cinema. (344) (9643)

95 The	075095	1.45
fishman	(9087183)	2.00

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**Eureka's Castle**  
**A Time...Life (75**

1982 *Aspen* (5896362) 12.49 *Cue the Music*  
 (776096) 1.45 *Ned's Atomic Dustbin*  
 (887183) 2.00 *The Mt. Man and Her*  
 (8831) 4.00 *Videofashion* (11015) 4.99  
 1980 *The Big E* (75522)

**Zorro**      **Mattions** 92 - (10227782) 5.05  
**1.40**      **(10227782)** 5.05  
**Prince**      **Toussaint** 5.05

**RADIO 4**

**Stereo on FM**  
**5.55am Shipping Forecast - 6.00**  
**News 6.10, The 6.03**  
**Weather 6.10 and 6.03**  
**Moment: 6.50 Britain for 7.25**  
**Judge (Tom Watson)**  
 Everybody, too, is the quartet which performs Ian  
 Johnston's music. Obsequiously,  
 New City Studios

script can  
shout "I

7.30 **Listeners' Letters 7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45**  
Thought for the Day **7.55**  
Weather **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58**  
News **9.00** News **9.30**  
**9.30** **Balwynsky**, presented by Pete McCarthy  
**1.00** **News**: On the Hour: Parody of current affairs (s) (r)  
**1.30** **The Mark Brothers**  
**4.00** **News**: Age to Age  
**4.30** **Science Now**, with Peter Evans  
**5.00** **Casting the Earth**: Roger Harrabin challenges Michael Heseltine, trainee and industry secretary, on the environmental consequences of privatising the coal mining industry  
**5.25** **Grand Tour**: Author Maya

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30	Westminster	6.25	Little Sighs on the Down: The topical events in a small village (1 of 5)
35	Wentworth, with Gordon Clough	6.50	Stop the Wheel, with Robert Robinson (S)
40	Inside Music: Roger White guides listeners through the strange maze	7.20	Kaleidoscope: On the Beat. A female folk singer and drummers and percussionists about the fundamental nature of the beat in music (S)
45	They Think It's All Over: Desmond Lynam refers the alternative sports quiz (S) (P)	7.50	Classic Serial: La Peste. First a two-part dramatisation by Guy Meredith of Victor Camus's novel set in the 1940s (S) (P)
50	News	8.50	Writers Revealed: Rosemary Wren talks to Len Muesie (P)
55	Any Questions? James Naughtie chats a discussion from Fraserburgh in Scotland, between NPS Michael Ewing, Michael Forsythe, George Robertson and Malcolm Bruce (P)	9.20	Mind in Mind (P)
60	1.55 Shipping Forecast		

9.50 Ten to 7  
10.00 News

**10.45** **Life with Lederer:** Helen Lederer and friends takes a mystery cruise (s) (r)

reveals v  
in music

**fashioned this play.** Although dead, Stevenson lives on in the narrator whom Forness has created. This story-teller (Forness) is everywhere, present in the intimate moments of the two women (Wendy Seager, who lives in New Jersey) who loan him their home. The novel is large in the same way as *The Hobbit* (Forbes Masson) or of a hanging

**no spare (S)**  
**11.30** **TV-14** **Movie:** *Melting Pot.* Tracy Astor's playful history tells a series of romances it charts the relationship between Joyce (Miranda Richardson) and her first husband Howard (Jim Broadbent).  
**12.00** **12:43am News,** and **12.20** **Weather 12:33 Shipping 12.48 World Service (LW only)**

**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1 - 105.3kHz/268.5m; 1069kHz/275.5m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2 - FM-88.90-92.3; Radio 3 - FM-94.9-96.3; DAB+ - 198kHz/1515m; FM-44.4-46.6; Radio 5 - 69.9kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/330.1m; 92.4kHz/330.1m

FM 95.8, GLR: 1458  
3m.

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